THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • TUESDAY • APRIL 21, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

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BENGAL SIR TRIBUNALS 'NON-FUNCTIONAL', SC SEEKS REPORT

The Supreme Court said it would seek a report from the Calcutta HC amid claims that appellate tribunals in West Bengal are non-functional. Advocate Devadatt Kamat told an SC bench that appellate tribunals were not allowing lawyers to represent parties and were only accepting online applications. "We will get a report from the chief justice (of the Calcutta HC) today itself," CJI Surya Kant responded

ED raids sons of Haris, grandson of Rahman Khan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE two sons of Congress sitting MLA from the Shantinagar constituency in Bengaluru, NA Haris, and a grandson of former Union minister Rahman Khan have allegedly come under the scanner of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru in the case of notorious cryptocurrency-linked money laundering scam involving Srikrishna Ramesh alias Sriki and others.

ED is "conducting search action against Srikrishna Ramesh alias Sriki and other accused persons on 12 premises spread across Karnataka, including the residence of Mohammed Haris Nalapad and Omar Farook Nalapad — sons of Congress sitting MLA from Shantinagar constituency in Bengaluru, NA Haris — and Aqib Khan, the grandson of former union minister Rahman Khan," the ED stated in an official release on Monday morning.

"The searches are being conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The investigation so far has revealed that Mohammed Haris and Omar Farook and Aqib Khan are close associates of Srikrishna Ramesh and are main beneficiaries of proceeds of crime," charged the ED.

CONTINUED ON: P4

ON EVE OF INAUGURATION BY PM, ₹80K CR REFINERY UP IN FLAMES

Modi's visit postponed; no casualties reported; investigation launched

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

A massive fire broke out at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)'s new oil refinery at Pachpadra in Rajasthan's Balotra district on Monday, a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi was scheduled to inaugurate it.

The entire refinery complex had to be evacuated following the blaze, which broke out near the crude distillation unit around 2 pm. There were no casualties.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said the PM's programme would not take place on Tuesday and a new date would be announced.

The exact cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained and a probe has been launched to find out what led to the blaze and take remedial measures, the ministry added.

The fire incident on the eve of the PM's programme has raised serious questions about the security arrangements and preparations in place.

According to eyewitnesses, plumes of smoke from the refinery were visible from afar.

The unexpected fire a day before a high-profile event caused chaos and panic among officials and security personnel. Chief Secretary V Srinivas had reached Pachpadra on Monday to oversee the arrangements for the PM's visit.

Fire safety systems were immediately activated upon detecting the fire. Teams from both the municipal fire department and the refinery's internal fire brigade brought the fire under control after around two hours.

Firefighters douse the blaze at HPCL's refinery in Balotra, Rajasthan on Monday | PTI

Fire broke out near the 'heart' of the refinery

The fire broke out near the crude distillation unit, the primary unit considered the heart of an oil refinery. According to reports, refineries are susceptible to fires, explosions, and catastrophic failures during the commissioning phase, as this period involves introducing hydrocarbons into new or maintained high-pressure, high-temperature systems

India's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex, HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Ltd (HRRL) is considered crucial for the country's energy sector.

HRRL is a joint venture between HPCL and the Government of Rajasthan with an equity participation of 74% and 26%, respectively.

Built at a cost of ₹79,450 crore, HRRL is considered one of India's key energy projects. The refinery has a capacity of 9 million metric tonnes per annum (mmtpa) and a petrochemical capacity of 2.4 mmtpa.

The refinery will produce petrol and diesel along with petrochemical products such as polypropylene, linear low-density polyethylene, high-density polyethylene, benzene, toluene, and butadiene. The sprawling complex is spread across 4,400 acres and the project is expected to reduce dependence on oil imports.

(With inputs from Rakesh Kumar in New Delhi)

U.S. TEAM YET TO REACH PAK

Big 'no' to peace talks, says Iran

AGENCIES
@ Tehran / Washington / Dubai

THE much-touted second round of peace talks in Pakistan appears to be a non-starter with the US team of negotiators led by Vice President J D Vance yet to board the plane to Islamabad and Iran categorically stating that it has no plans to hold any more talks.

"We have no plans for the next round of negotiation, and no decision has been made in this regard," Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said on Monday.

Iran's statement came after the US Navy, which is 'blockading' the Strait of Hormuz, seized an Iranian-flagged cargo ship.

Announcing the next round of peace talks with Iran on Sunday, US President Donald Trump had said the US team would travel to Islamabad on Monday. He initially said Vance wouldn't go this time due to "security reasons" but the White House later clarified that the vice president would lead the delegation. However, as of Monday night, Vance was still in Washington according to reports.

DAY 52 | WAR WATCH

Meanwhile, news agency Reuters claimed that Iran agreed to consider attending the talks after Pakistan promised Tehran it would persuade the US to end the blockade.

The first round of talks on April 11 had ended without a deal and both sides accused the other of breaching the ceasefire pact. The two-week ceasefire between the US and Iran is set to expire on Wednesday.

P11

EXPRESS READ

Intra-city drone delivery trials in B'luru a success

Bengaluru: Logistics company Federal Express (FedEx) Corporation and IIT Madras on Monday successfully conducted trial flights for India's first intra-city drone delivery between Electronics City Phase II and a site near Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru | P2

India, S Korea unveil economic roadmap

New Delhi: India and South Korea on Monday pledged to nearly double their annual trade to USD 50 billion by 2030 and committed to upgrading their comprehensive economic partnership pact within the next year. Following talks, the two sides also inked 15 agreements | P9

Mangled remains of the bus involved in the accident in J&K's Udhampur | PTI

At least 21 dead as bus falls into gorge in J&K

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AT least 21 people were killed and 61 others injured after the bus they were travelling in fell into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Monday.

Officials said the passenger bus was on its way from Ramnagar to Udhampur, when it met with the accident near Khagote village in Ramnagar around 10 am.

"The driver lost control while negotiating a sharp curve on at Khagote. At the same time, an auto-rickshaw was in the vicinity. The bus crushed the auto-rickshaw and plunged nearly 100 metres into the deep gorge before landing upside down on the road below," Deputy Inspector General of Police (Udhampur-Reasi Range) Shiv Kumar Sharma told reporters.

The impact of the fall was so severe that the entire top portion of the bus got crushed, trapping all passengers inside the wreckage.

Locals, police, and SDRF personnel soon launched a relief and rescue operations.

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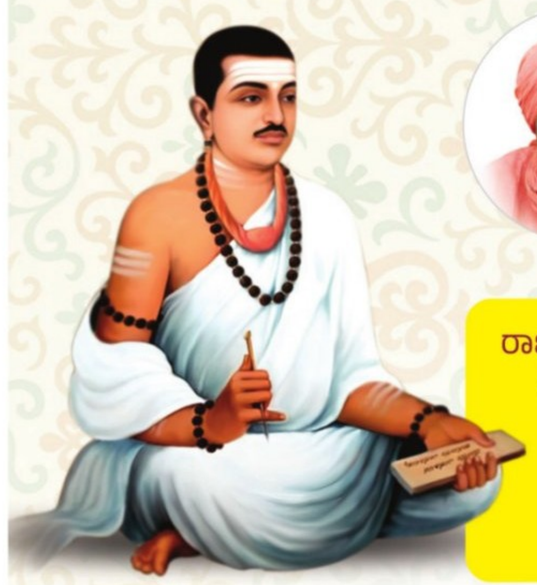

ಅಮೃತ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಹಿರೇಮಠ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನ, ಭಾಲ್ಕಿ

ಪೂಜ್ಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಮ.ಘ.ಚ. ಡಾ. ಚನ್ನಬಸವ ಪಟ್ಟದ್ದೇವರ

27ನೆಯ ಸ್ಮರಣೋತ್ಸವ

ಹಾಗೂ

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೊರರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಸವತತ್ವ ಪ್ರಸಾರ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮಹಾಜಂಗಮರು, ಗಡಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಕ್ರಾಂತಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅಕ್ಷರಸಂತ, ಬಡವರ, ನಿರ್ಗತಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಅನಾಥರ ಬಂಧು, ಮಾತೃಹೃದಯಿಗಳು, ಹಿರೇಮಠ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನ ವಿದ್ಯಾಪೀಠ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರುಅನುಭವಮಂಟಪ ಬಸವಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ ಮಠಾಧಿಪತಿಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾದ

ಪೂಜ್ಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಮ.ಘ.ಚ. ನಾಡೋಜ ಡಾ. ಬಸವಲಿಂಗ ಪಟ್ಟದ್ದೇವರ

ಅಮೃತ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವ

ಗೌರವಾನ್ವಿತ ಸಿ.ಪಿ.ರಾಧಾಕೃಷ್ಣನ್
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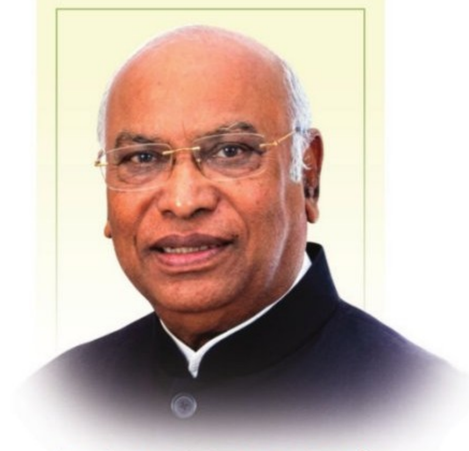

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ ಖರ್ಗೆ
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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ಹಾರ್ದಿಕ ಸುಸ್ವಾಗತ

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22-04-2026 ಬುಧವಾರ ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10:00 • ಸ್ಥಳ: ಶ್ರೀ ಚನ್ನಬಸವಾಶ್ರಮ, ಭಾಲ್ಕಿ

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ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು, ಬೀದರ

ತಾವೂ ಬನ್ನಿ, ತಮ್ಮವರನ್ನೂ ಕರೆತನ್ನಿ !

ಶರಣ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ ಖಂಡ್ರೆ
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ಮಾಜಿ ಶಾಸಕರು, ಭಾಲ್ಕಿ

ALMANAC TODAY
Tuesday: 21.04.2026 **Year:** Parabhava **Ayana:** Uttharayana
Ritu: Vasantha **Masa:** Vaishaka **Paksha:** Sukla **Tithi:** Chathurthi 8.27 am
Nakshatra: Mrigashira 4.05 am **Moon in** Mithuna Rashi **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER MIN 20°C | MAX 35°C
FORECAST Sunny

Sunrise 06.04 am | Sunset 06.33 pm | Moonrise 09.18 am | Moonset 10.48 pm

GBA mops up over ₹150cr via Premium FAR

Application must be balanced, else civic infrastructure will be stressed, say experts

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

IN over four months after rolling out the Premium Floor Area Ratio (PFAR), the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has received over 15 applications to build additional floors, and has fetched over Rs 150 crore in revenue.

Officials from the GBA's Town Planning department said that as of now, only big builders have applied for PFAR and that in the coming days, they are expecting applications from small building owners. Experts opine that if PFAR isn't applied in a balanced manner, there will be more stress on the civic infrastructure.

PFAR is aimed at paving the way for higher-density developments and optimal utilisation of high-value land within Bengaluru limits. The GBA rolled it out in December last year, permitting additional built-up area, where developers can acquire over and above the permissible FAR by paying a premium to the government.

"From December till now, we have received over 15 applications. We have collected over Rs 150 crore in revenue," a senior official from the department said.

The official said that they are confident of receiving more revenue and they could easily mop up the Rs 2,100 crore target set by the five city corporations. "It is pertinent to note that the present figures reflect only the initial phase of implementation. As the market stabilises, a significant increase in applications is likely, particularly from projects that have remained constrained over the past decade due to inefficiencies and delays in the Transferable Development Rights (TDR) regime," said advocate Prashanth Mirle.

PFAR, being a more direct and commercially predictable mechanism, is expected to divert demand away from TDR, which has already been affected by administrative bottlenecks and delays in issuance and utilisation, he said.

Mirle also pointed out that the existing base FAR in several zones is already at the upper end of planning tolerance, and any additional loading through PFAR, without a demonstrable and proportionate augmentation of supporting infrastructure, may lead to over-densification.

Civic activist and founder-member of Bengaluru Praja Vedike, NS Mukunda, questioned if the city is ready to take civic stress arising out of PFAR. "Bengaluru's poor infrastructure has been getting exposed often. PFAR must be calibrated with the existing road capacity, water supply, capacity of the sewage lines, traffic and other factors. Imagine there is a population of 5,000 in a square kilometre. Through PFAR, if the population is more than doubled suddenly, what would happen," he questioned.

Both Mirle and Mukunda said that if PFAR isn't applied in a balanced manner, there will be more stress on civic infra and also warned that if TDR demand diminishes due to PFAR, the government would be compelled to resort to direct acquisition, thereby increasing financial liabilities.

READY FOR RAIN

Ahead of the monsoon, work on desilting the 37-acre Arekere Lake goes on. Similar desilting and rejuvenation projects have been undertaken at the city's major water bodies like Hebbal, Nagawara and Halasuru | KEVIN NASHON

Trial flights: FedEx, IIT-M drones cover KIA to E-City in 21 minutes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

LOGISTICS company Federal Express (FedEx) Corporation and Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) on Monday successfully conducted trial flights for India's first intra-city drone delivery.

The project, involving high-speed drone operations in complex urban airspace, was conceived at the FedEx SMART Centre at IIT Madras. The trial flights were conducted between Electronics City Phase II and a site near Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru, with approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Typically, this involves a 53-km road journey, which takes over 60 minutes. The drone flights took an aerial route of approximately 39-42km, covering it in around 21 minutes. Operations were conducted at an altitude of 120 metres, as per guidelines. Safety systems included an autonomous flight termination system, return-to-home capability and anti-collision strobe lighting.

Prof. Satyanarayanan R Chakravarthy, core faculty member at FedEx SMART Centre, IIT Madras, said, "These trials represent a significant leap in our mission to create a sustainable and progressive supply chain model. By integrating advanced aerial robotics into urban logistics, we are moving beyond theoretical research to prove the efficacy of high-impact, future-ready solutions that can redefine the global logistics landscape."

INT'L TRAVEL TO GO FULLY DIGITAL AT KIA

ANUBHAB ROY @ Bengaluru

THE Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), after successfully conducting trial runs, is preparing to lay the groundwork for fully digitised international passenger movement at its Terminal 2 (T2), one of the first international airports in the world to do so.

Airport's chief technical officer George Fanthome spoke to *TNIE* exclusively about what the change would be at the ground-level, and how the collection and processing of passenger data would work behind the scenes.

The process will be the same as Digi Yatra and will be optional for the passengers. Fanthome said only the essential minimum of data would be used for the process, which would not be stored for a long term.

"Behind the scenes, a passenger's digital wallet securely shares only the minimum verified data required at each stage, with explicit consent. This includes a standards-based digital passport credential, optional booking or boarding data, and biometric reference data used purely to confirm identity. There is no central storage of biometrics or full passport data. Biometric data is encrypted, used only for the journey, and deleted within 24 hours after travel," Fanthome said.

In the context of Indian airports, the KIA has been a ground-zero for this, acting as a pilot study for ascertaining the feasibility of this infrastructure. "The proof of concepts validated that digital identity wallets can function seamlessly in real-world airline and airport environments, that passenger data can be securely shared in advance with consent, and that biometric verification can replace traditional document checks across touchpoints," said Fanthome. He also added that rather than passengers feeling the process to be complicated, the technology would remain "largely invisible" to them.

While the KIA gears up to be the one of the few international airports in the world to support this, the lack of standardisation would mean that passengers would have to carry documentation with them anyway, in the severe likelihood of the destination airport requiring it.

"International contactless travel requires alignment across multiple layers of airports, airlines, governments, border control authorities and global standards bodies. While many airports globally are exploring similar capabilities, large scale implementation depends on regulatory approvals, cross-border acceptance of digital credentials and standardisation of systems," Fanthome said.

EXPRESS READ

A puppy gets vaccinated at a free animal health camp at Cubbon Park on Monday

Dogs, cats get vaccinated, dewormed at free camp

Bengaluru: A total of 52 stray dogs and 12 cats, including strays, were vaccinated and dewormed during a free animal health camp at Cubbon Park on Monday. The programme, which will run till May 4, was organised by the Karuna Animal Welfare Association of Karnataka to commemorate Basava Jayanti. According to association president Dr D T Jayaramaiah, campaigns would be conducted in Vijayapura and Mandya. "Most of the dogs and cats came from Hebbal and RT Nagar," he said. The association is also running an adoption drive in tandem with the vaccination and deworming programme. Only one dog was adopted on Monday. Those interested can contact 91415 79398 for more details. **ENS**

After plaints, Bannerghatta Road asphalting begins

Bengaluru:After repeated complaints, asphalting work on Bannerghatta Road has started. Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) Commissioner K N Ramesh inspected the ongoing work on Monday. He said the prominent Bannerghatta Road was damaged and riddled with potholes after the drainage pipeline installation work undertaken by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). He said a one-km stretch of Bannerghatta Road from Kalyani Choultry to IIMB Metro Station has been asphalted. Work on the remaining section of the road has been taken up and it will be completed by Tuesday, and the road will be opened for traffic. **ENS**

Metro fare hike: City MP urges BMRCL to act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BENGALURU Central MP PC Mohan has criticised the delay in reviewing the proposed Metro fare hike, noting that 72 days have passed since the proposed fare revision was put on hold without any clarity from authorities. In a social media post, he said decisions impacting lakhs of commuters cannot remain pending indefinitely and stressed the need for transparency. He urged Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to communicate clearly with the public and take timely action.

Highlighting affordability concerns, Mohan called on the Metro operator to review and reduce fares to ensure that public transport remains accessible. He added that prolonged silence on the issue has left daily commuters uncertain, and stressed that prompt decision-making is essential to maintain trust and convenience for Metro users. The fare hike was recommended by the Fare Fixation Committee. But following protests and commuter dissatisfaction, it was put on hold.

4 months on, Kogilu slum evictees refuse to move out, stare at health crisis

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

IT'S been nearly four months since residents of Waseem Layout and Fakeer Colony in Kogilu of North Bengaluru were evicted and their houses demolished for residing on encroached government land. But with no government support for rehabilitation, most of the evictees continue to stay in makeshift tents in the rubble of their former houses, facing extreme heat and dust during the days and mosquitoes at nights apart from no access to clean water.

Many of the slum dwellers have developed fever, diarrhea and other stomach related ailments and constantly fear outbreak of epidemics.

According to Dudiyo Janara Vedike, a community-based organisation, over 70 of the evictees are genuine cases, eligible for houses under government welfare programmes. "Over 160 houses of the poor were unconstitutionally razed by the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) on December 20 last year. As many had been living here for many years, they refuse to move to temporary rehabilitation centres set up by the GBA. They fear that if they move out, they will not be able to come back," said Pooja HM from the NGO.

Pooja noted that due to the recent harsh weather, many have fallen sick. People have been complaining that are suffering from viral fever, severe dehydration due to stomach ailments and head and body ache. She appealed to the civic body to conduct health check-ups and set up a health camp, or there could be outbreak of an epidemic.

Sheik Kadar Basha, a community leader at Fakeer Colony, claimed that he has been staying at the slum for the last 25 years. He said the government received flak for the demolition of their houses, but when it took a political colour, things turned for the worse for the slum dwellers. "BJP leaders claimed that illegal Bangladeshi immigrants had been staying here. This put pressure on the government and the chance to accommodate the poor with government housing was lost," said Basha.

Slum dwellers make do with make shift tents | KEVIN NASHON

A BSWML official clarified that as the matter is before the court, the government is unable to give any relief to the slum dwellers. "A person has filed a PIL seeking relief for slum dwellers and at least 15 evictees have filed a writ petition seeking grant of land there as they claimed to have been staying there for many years. Only after the verdict, a decision can be taken," the official explained.

Meanwhile, around 30 applicants from Bagaluru, Hegade Nagar, Kogilu Cross and Yelahanka received temporary title deeds under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Ltd. "We have asked the Waseem Layout and Fakeer Colony dwellers to also apply and seek 400 sqft flat at Baiyappanahalli near Chagletti, Hennur," the official added.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

21st April : Taurus Season Primer Taurus season is your annual check on intake versus output. Notice what you consume: food, media, commitments, spending. Notice what you produce: work, care, results, value. Adjust until the exchange feels fair and sustainable. Taurus favors steady gains over spikes. What you repeat becomes your stability. Make it worth keeping.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You'll be in a competitive environment and yet have the relaxed confidence of James Bond. And you're also as mysterious as a spy, showing up smooth, using the environment to your benefit and keeping everyone guessing.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
There are a lot of true ideas, but which ideas are also helpful? There are a lot of solutions that will work, but which are you likely to follow through with? These are the types of questions you'll answer to effect change.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
When someone tries to correct, define or control your behavior, it will be a waste of energy to let that escalate into a conflict. Choose your response instead of reacting. Set the tone and timing, and you'll have the upper hand.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
This is where you prove your tenacity. If you don't succeed in the task today, you'll succeed in learning what you need to know for the next time. Take notes; it will help you remember and keep you sharp.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
No need to settle for what other people think is interesting. You know what thrills you. Your preferences, appetites and desires will not steer you wrong. The thing that gets your heart racing points to the pursuit that will matter to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
You're starting to think of a certain part of your past a little differently. There's no need to force yourself into a situation to please those around you. If it's a good fit, it will feel natural.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
Certain environments get unmanageable when big, greedy, selfish personalities take over. It feels like there's a gorilla running the zoo. You're the one managing reality. You are the one making the hard, adult decisions. Take the keys back. Your peace is not optional.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
Willpower isn't always easy to access, which makes today's discipline boost a gift. You'll find it simpler to do what needs doing as inner momentum helps you move past resistance. You're setting yourself up to feel good about it later.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Intense feelings come up. You express them with restraint, which draws people closer instead of overwhelming them. Then, when you're alone, you find even better ways to understand and channel your emotions, perhaps physically or through art.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
It occurs to you to wonder, "Am I living, or just existing?" The question puts you in touch with your own yearnings and gifts. It helps you understand what it would take to feel more vital. And today, it will lead to an interesting insight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
There's a version of you who would explain until the other person understands, a version who hopes others will rectify unfairness and a version who negotiates your own needs down to keep things smooth. Those versions are done.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
There's a situation where you decide not to engage at full depth. You handle what's required and leave the rest alone. That ability to stop protects your energy and keeps you from burning out under ongoing responsibility.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

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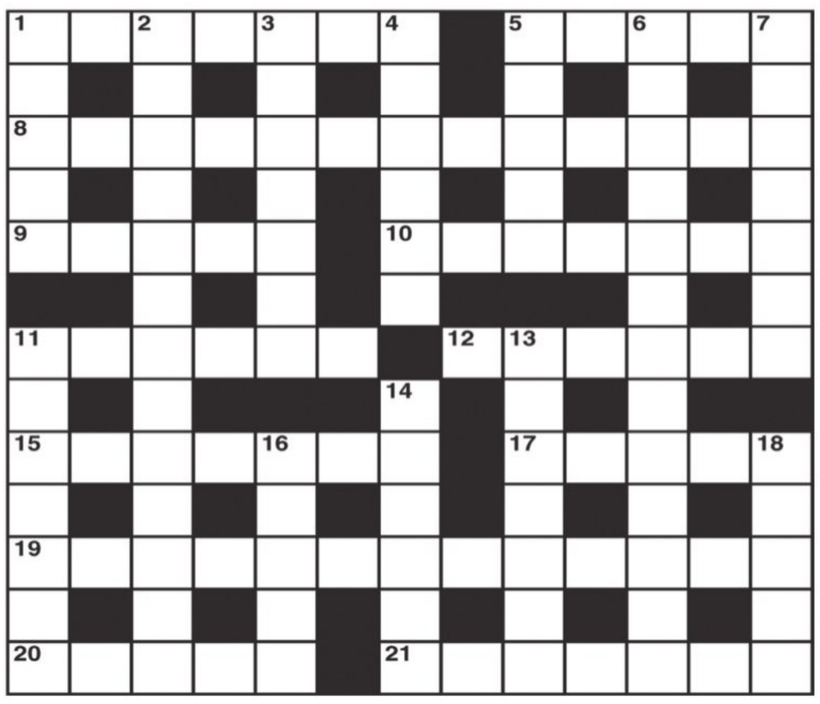
4				5				
		8						3
9			4	6	2			1
2						7		
				7				8
	1		9			2		4
8			6		1		3	

6	5	2	9	7	1	4	3	8
9	7	8	4	2	3	1	5	6
3	1	4	5	8	6	9	2	7
1	2	6	8	3	9	7	4	5
5	8	9	6	4	7	3	1	2
4	3	7	2	1	5	6	8	9
7	6	3	1	5	2	8	9	4
8	9	5	3	6	4	2	7	1
2	4	1	7	9	8	5	6	3

SUDOKU MEDIUM

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Missionary who can handle a spoon? (7)
5 Estella's admirer was given it - the bird (5)
8 Perspiring right behind the quarry? (3,2,3,5)
9 Woolly lot of wild geese (5)
10 On the first of May Elaine changes her name (7)
11 Score confused with a gross (6)
12 The academic field (6)
15 Western leader changes with the wind (7)
17 Sailor a short distance nearer the stern (5)
19 Little wonder! (6,7)
20 They admit being swingers (5)
21 Quickness of the hand is unimportant we hear (7)

DOWN
1 She is in being and remains here (5)
2 Where to find time by the clock apparently (2,3,4,2,2)
3 A number of workers in possession (7)
4 Give someone a lift from the cemetery (6)
5 Plate gets broken - a bit of a bloomer (5)
6 Good diction perhaps but it can cause offence (5,8)
7 They provide courses for farmworkers (7)
11 Town crier's profession? (7)
13 A big hit; poetry that is fashionable (1,2,4)
14 Assumes as one's own? (6)
16 It originally described a year in Rome (5)
18 Test the patience of a good man at a meeting (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Spear, 8 Landmark, 9 Clove, 10 Tolerant, 11 Evict, 12 Bet, 16 Writhe, 17 Orated, 18 Dam, 23 Issue, 24 Succumbs, 25 Piano, 26 Entrance, 27 Aside.

Down: 2 Palavers, 3 Advocate, 4 Parole, 5 Adder, 6 Salad, 7 Skate, 12 Bed, 13 Tom, 14 Warships, 15 Returned, 19 Abbacy, 20 As yet, 21 Acute, 22 Sudan.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

GNIET

EEIXL

PGAEMI

SIHIFN

This may be my best invention yet!
It certainly is brilliant!
2/24
WHEN IT CAME TO EDISON'S INVENTIVE THINKING, THE LIGHT BULB WAS A ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLUTE BASIC WORTHY LAVISH
Answer: When it came to picking out the right bubble gum, she was — "CHEWSY"

JDS state youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy has reaffirmed the party's commitment to secularism, stating that the ideology of secular credentials is interwoven in the party's core theme - Jatyateeta Janata Dal (Caste-transcendent Janata Dal). He asserted that JDS has merely been an ally of the BJP and has never compromised its ideology of secularism

DCRE inspector files complaint against SP, DySp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BENGALURU West Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE) police station inspector TR Srinivas has filed a complaint against the DCRE headquarters SP and DySP, alleging that the officers pressured him in certain cases to file closure reports favouring the accused.

Additionally, he released a five-minute video detailing how he was treated and harassed, in which he also hinted at taking an extreme step.

In his letter dated April 11, Srinivas alleged that DCRE Headquarters SP Karibasavanagowda and DySP Maheshwaragowda "pressured him to file investigation reports favouring upper-caste individuals accused in atrocity cases." He claims the harassment began after he refused to submit what he describes as biased final reports. According to him, the officers then encouraged complainants to file false petitions against him, using these complaints as a basis to initiate inquiries and subject him to continued harassment.

Srinivas released a five-minute video stating, "Dalit officers have no protection under the AHINDA government." He added, "Justice must be served to us. A conspiracy has been hatched against me regarding my post; if any injustice occurs, the senior officers will be held responsible for the consequences." In the video, he pointed toward a ceiling fan, hinting at an extreme step.

He stated that, "I have been working at DCRE since last December, and I was transferred to Udupi without any valid reason. Even though the KAT (Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal) stayed the transfer, they are trying to transfer me. In every case I handled, DySP Maheshwaragowda and the SP would instruct me to favour the accused," he alleged.

DCRE PETITION AGAINST IPS OFFICERS FROM OTHER STATES HARASSING SUBORDINATES

BENGALURU: SS Kashi, superintendent of police, Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE), Bengaluru, has submitted a petition on April 15 to DG & IGP MA Saleem over the alleged discrimination by Karnataka-cadre IPS officers from other states against their subordinates in the state. Specifically mentioning Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy's name, Kashi sought permission to present before the chief minister and the home minister the alleged harassment and exploitation of officers. Kashi alleged that some IPS officers misused their authority and harassed their subordinates and other staff. He claimed that a few officers from other states allegedly suppressed officers from Karnataka by misusing their positions. He raised these concerns orally and in writing some time ago, but only a few of them were addressed. Kashi accused Sudheer Kumar Reddy of misusing his authority and harassing subordinate staff, and referred to similar actions by other IPS officers. The DG & IGP was unavailable for comment. **ENS**

Students harassed? Cancel college affiliation: Expert

'Govt must take responsibility, ensure stringent punishment for perpetrators, background verification of staff must'

DARSHAN DADADAPURA
@ Bengaluru

WITH several cases of teachers and lecturers harassing students coming to light recently, concerns have been raised over the safety of students, especially girls. Many students have also been pushed to the extreme of dying by suicide.

Thousands of students face physical or mental harassment, but only a few come forward and complain with the majority choosing to keep quiet, fearing stigma. Vimala KS, a women rights activist, said, "Every school provides gender sensitivity and sex education, but the government should implement the rules strictly. If there is a case of sexual harassment in any educational institution, the state and central governments should take responsibility. Especially in private institutions, such cases get settled unofficially, as their reputation would be at stake. The government and courts should take such cases seriously and hand out stringent punishment."

TD Kemparaju, a former vice-chancellor of Bengaluru North University, said awareness and counselling can help prevent such incidents. "While parents and students should be encouraged to report any untoward incident to the management. There should be an effective counselling mechanism, where students feel safe to report and discuss any case of harassment by the teaching or non-teaching staff. Educational institutions should collaborate with the police and NSS to raise awareness," he said.

He also suggested that the government must not renew the affiliation for institutes that have reported repeated cases of sexual harassment. "The teachers' mentality also plays a key role. The government must create a special portal for students to report harassment. Institutions should do robust background verification," he said.

S Chandrashekar Shetty, president, Forum of Former Vice-Chancellors of Karnataka, opines that the government must make it mandatory for every institute to evaluate the intelligence quotient (IQ), emotional IQ, social IQ and moral IQ of their staff. Also, students should be counselled twice -- before and after each semester.

Race, caste, religion, colour, gender, financial status, language, ideology and other factors also lead to harassment of students. It is not a secret that many PhD guides select students based on their caste, while caste-based discrimination is also common in schools, colleges and universities, said an education expert, on condition of anonymity. He opined that the UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, may help to curb this.

RECENT INCIDENTS

Nov 2025: Bharat Bhargava, a lecturer in Mysuru, held for sexual harassment

Jan 2026: Rajkumar Kumbar, a lecturer at Govt PU College, Afzalpur (Kalaburagi), arrested for luring student with a gift on New Year

March 2026: Abdul Rehaman Sharif, a professor, arrested for proposing to his student in the classroom, in Nelamangala, Bengaluru

April 2026: A 17-year-old PU student ended her life after her lecturer allegedly insulted her in Doddaballapur

April 2026: Govt school teacher HO Rajanna booked for allegedly raping 10th standard girl in Chitradurga

Elderly man fatally hit by BMTC bus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 61-year-old man died after a BMTC bus rammed into his two-wheeler on Madhure Road in Hesaraghatta in the Chikkabanavara traffic police limits on Monday. The deceased, Nagaraju, a resident of Basaveshwar Nagar was running a Nandini Milk Parlour.

The police said, at around 10:45 am when the bus was going from Nelamangala to Yelahanka, it hit Nagaraju who was on his way to his daughter's house in Kannamangala. He sustained severe injuries and was rushed to a hospital shifted where the doctors declared him brought dead. A notice has been issued to the driver for further investigation.

SCORCHING SUN

Bengaluru's temperature has seen a consistent rise over the past few days, with the mercury touching 35 degrees Celsius on Monday | KEVIN NASHON

No accident, but murder in ghats, three arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Yellapur (Uttara Kannada)

THE Yellapur Police have arrested three persons in connection with a murder that they tried to pass off as an accident. This is the second such incident in Uttara Kannada this year.

The incident at Arbail Ghat, where a car was found completely burnt with the driver charred beyond recognition, turned out to be a case of murder. Three were arrested for allegedly killing their friend.

On April 8 2026, people reported a car on fire in the Arbail Ghats. It was initially believed that the driver had lost control, causing the vehicle to fall off a cliff and catch fire.

A couple of days later, a person from Belagavi, Jaganath Dhaple, approached the Yellapur Police and stated that the car belonged to his son, Nitish Dhaple. However, he could not identify the charred body.

But the incident raised suspicions, as Jaganath expressed doubts over the circumstances of his son's death.

A special team was formed by Sirsi DySP Geetha Patil, and zeroed in on three suspects — Nayeem Bhashir, Ahmed Mujawar Heggeri, and Maulana Babajan Bada alias Dadapeer Mehboob Sab Balsanghi — who were arrested. The trio allegedly murdered Nitish over a personal grudge.

The deceased were Manjunath Veerabhadra Hasler and his younger brother, Chandrashekar Veerabhadra Hasler. They were allegedly poisoned under the pretext of being offered drinks, killed, and the incident was staged to look like an accident.

THE GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
Ministry of Education (Shiksha Mantralaya), Govt. of India
Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade (4th Cycle)
Gandhigram - 624 302,
Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu.

ADMISSIONS : 2026-27

Online application registrations are invited for admission to various Diploma, Under Graduate, Post Graduate, Post Graduate Diploma, D.Voc and B.Voc. Programmes offered by the Gandhigram Rural Institute for the Academic year 2026-2027 from 06.04.2026. The unfilled seats of UG and PG programmes (if any) will be made available for non-CUET applicants after filling of seats through CUET (PG/UG) 2026. For further details, visit the Institute website: www.ruraluniv.ac.in

Date:21.04.2026 REGISTRAR i/c

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client is purchasing the scheduled Flat from its present owner MR. JANARDHAN KUMAR R, S/o late Sri. N. Raman and is planning to enter into Agreement of Sale. If any person/ persons or institution is having any right title or interest on the schedule property should lodge their claim with necessary legal documents with the undersigned within 7 days from the date of this publication of public notice. In case the undersigned does not receive any legal claim with documentary proof with in the stipulated period of 7 days, my client will proceed with entering into the Sale Agreement and eventually will go ahead with registration of absolute sale of the schedule in his name before competent sub-registrar as if there is no claim on the property. Further note that NO CLAIM shall be received beyond the period of 7 days.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Flat No. A017, Ground Floor, in Block 'A', namely *"Surbacon Cedar"*, carved out of Survey No. 51/5 bearing CMC No. 187/157, measuring carpet area 1033 square feet, having a super built-up area of 1440 square feet, and an undivided share of 778 Square feet proportionate to the extent of the built-up area in the Schedule Property, situated at Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District.
North: Flat No. B018, South: Set Back, East: Set Back, West:Flat No. B016.

LALITHA Sridhar
ADVOCATE & Partner
LR ADVOCATES

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank **SPECIALISED ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH-1**
(A Government of India Undertaking)
2nd Floor, C.O. Bldg. No.86, Spencer Towers, M G Road, Bangalore- 560 001.
Telefax: 080-25310066, E-Mail: cb2366canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)]
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank Bengaluru Specialised Asset Recovery Management Branch– 1 (2366)** Branch under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice 13(2) dated **31/01/2026** calling upon the Borrower/s: **Shri. Prabhu N** S/o Late Narayanaswamy, No.20 Dasara Colony, 7th Main, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 48,55,031.55 (Rupees Forty Eight Lakhs Fifty five Thousand Thirty one and Paise Fifty five only)** plus interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **17/04/2026 (17th day of April 2026).**
The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Canara Bank** for an amount of **Rs. 48,42,058.55** (Rupees Forty Eight Lakhs Forty Two Thousand Fifty eight and Paise Fifty five only) as on **15/04/2026** plus interest and charges thereon.
The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Movable & Immovable Property:
Title Holder : Mr. Prabhu N
Immovable : All that piece and parcel of Site No.30, katha No.101, formed in Sy No.83/1, (Gramtana), situated at Gangenahalli, Chowdanayakanahalli Gram Panchyathi limit, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore Soutn Taluk, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 Feet Totally measuring 1200 sq.ft with 3 squares residential house and bounded on the: East: Road, West: Site No.43, North: Site No. 31, South: Site No. 29.

Date : 17.04.2026 Sd/- Authorized Officer
Place : Bengaluru Canara Bank

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda
Regional Office, Bengaluru South : 4th Floor, 41/2, M G Road, Trinity Circle, Bengaluru – 560001

FOR THE KIND ATTENTION OF MOST VALUED CUSTOMERS

We are pleased to inform you that our Bank has decided to shift the premises of Bank of Baroda, **WHITEFEILD MAIN ROAD BRANCH** from present location i.e. No. 274, 1st Floor, Whitefield Main road, Whitefield, Bangalore-66.
To new premises situated at following address: No: 48/2, "Ira Square", Borewell Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore-560066.
Email : VJWHIT@bankofbaroda.bank.in,
Branch Head : 91763 74455, & 8618182139
Our Bank of Baroda **WHITEFEILD MAIN ROAD BRANCH** will start functioning from the above mentioned new location on **Date: 21.04.2026 (Tuesday)** Onwards.

Date: 21.04.2026 Sd/- Regional Head,
Place: Bengaluru Bank of Baroda, Bangalore South

RAJASTHAN POLICE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD, JAIPUR
(Government of Rajasthan Undertaking) CIN NO. U45201RJ2013SGC083014, Regd. Office : 756, Police Head Quarter, Lal Kothi, Jaipur (Raj.), Phone: 0141-2740784, Fax: 0141-2744294, e-mail: rpidcl@rajasthan.gov.in

क्रमांक :- RPHCCL/469/NIT/2026-27/D - 135 दिनांक :- 10/04/2026

ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 03/2026-27

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए राज्य/केन्द्र सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों/उपक्रमों में समकक्ष श्रेणी में पंजीकृत योग्य एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से नियमानुसार पाँच वर्ष की डीएलपी के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कम संख्या 01 से 08 तक की निविदा Two Bid System के तहत एवं कम संख्या 09 से 10 तक की निविदा एकल बिड के तहत आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा की कुल लागत	रूपये 2973.14 लाख
ऑन लाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख	16 अप्रेल 2026 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 18 मई 2026 सायं 4.00 बजे तक
ऑन लाईन निविदा फॉर्म जमा कराने की तारीख	18 मई 2026 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
ऑन लाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख	19 मई 2026 दोपहर 1.00 बजे

निविदा सम्बन्धित जानकारी राजस्थान पुलिस की बेबसाइट www.police.rajasthan.gov.in/ www.sppp.raj.nic.in एवं http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर भी उपलब्ध रहेगी। इच्छुक संवेदको को निविदा संबंधित जानकारी प्रबन्ध निदेशक कार्यालय से कार्यालय समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है। भविष्य में निविदाओं में संशोधन होने पर उपरोक्त वेबसाइटों पर ही प्रेषित किया जावेगा।

UBN No. : RID2627WLOB00055, RID2627WSOB00056 To RID2627WSOB00064

महाप्रबन्धक
राजस्थान पुलिस आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम लिमिटेड
राजस्थान, जयपुर

राज.संवाद/सी/26/1102

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai-600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022.

APPENDIX IV [Rule 8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **30.10.2025** calling upon the borrower, co-borrowers and guarantors **1. CHANDRAPPA N, 2. GIRIJAMMA V** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 7,11,118.65/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Eleven Thousand One Hundred Eighteen and Sixty Five Paise Only)** as on **27.10.2025** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Demand notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub - section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **16th day of APRIL 2026.**
The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of THE IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) for an amount of **Rs. 7,11,118.65/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Eleven Thousand One Hundred Eighteen and Sixty Five Paise Only)** and interest thereon.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub - Section (8) Of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Properties.

All that piece and parcel of the schedule Property Residential House Bearing Thippasandra Grama Panchayath Khatha No. 9/land E-khatha No. 152900303201700338, Measuring East To West: 14.9352 Mtrs. And North To South: 13.716000000000001 Mtrs. And Total Measuring 204.85 Sq. Meters Is Situated At Thalekere Village, Thippasandra Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka-592131, And **Bounded As:- East:** Road **West:** House Of Ningamma **North:** House Of T.M. Venkatesha **South:** Road

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Date : 16-04-2026 IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
Place : KARNATAKA (erstwhile Capital First Limited
Loan Account No : 116755659 and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)

FOCUS FEATURE

PROF (Dr) S. YATHIRAJ: A LIFE OF QUIET DEDICATION TO THE ANIMAL WORLD

Long before he became one of Karnataka's most respected veterinary professionals, Prof (Dr) S. Yathiraj was a young boy growing up in a village of Channarayapatna. Born into an agricultural family, his early life was shaped by the rhythms of rural India, where animals were not companions alone but the very backbone of livelihood.

His schooling began in the village and continued in Bengaluru, where a new world opened up. Like many students of his time, he was drawn to the prestige of the medical profession. The sight of young aspirants in white aprons symbolised aspiration, status, and purpose. He too wanted to become a doctor.

He realised farmers struggled to access veterinary care, where animals suffered not from lack of treatment, but from lack of timely help.

Choosing the Road Less Taken

In 1973, despite securing a medical seat, Dr Yathiraj chose veterinary science, driven by a desire to make a meaningful difference in an underexplored field. He completed his degree in 1978, pursued post-graduation, excelled academically with top ranks and gold medals, and soon began his career as a faculty member.

Yet, even as he taught, his commitment to service remained intact.

Balancing Classrooms and Cattle Sheds

While many would have settled into the comfort of an academic career, Dr Yathiraj chose a more demanding path. Based in Basavanagudi, he began treating large animals across Bengaluru's then semi-urban pockets, travelling to areas like Yediyur and Kadarenahalli.

His days were relentless. Mornings were spent teaching at the veterinary college. Evenings were reserved for field visits, tending to dairy cattle and livestock. It was physically exhausting and financially modest, but deeply fulfilling.

Over time, he adapted to the changing landscape of veterinary practice. Realising the limitations of large animal practice in an urbanising city, he transitioned into a mixed practice, gradually expanding into companion animal care.

From One Clinic to a Veterinary Ecosystem

The turning point came in 1988, when he and his nephew established one of the early private veterinary clinics. What began modestly has grown into a comprehensive ecosystem—hospital, research centre, diagnostics lab, cat clinic, pharmacy, and grooming. Each addition reflects a clear intent: making quality care accessible through in-house diagnostics, controlled costs, and flexible billing, balancing advanced medicine with practical affordability.

Trials, Grit, and the Early Struggle

Behind this success lies a story of quiet perseverance. In his early years, Dr Yathiraj did not even own a bicycle. He would rent one, travel part of the distance, park it discreetly, and walk to his patients' homes carrying his medical kit.

There was hesitation, even self-doubt. How would people perceive a doctor arriving this way? But necessity overruled discomfort.

In 1982, by pledging his degree certificate, he secured a small loan and bought his first vehicle, a Luna moped. It was a modest acquisition, but it marked a turning point, expanding both his reach and confidence.

Understanding the Language of Animals

Over nearly five decades, Dr Yathiraj has treated more than five lakh animals. Yet, he insists that numbers mean little compared to the experience each case brings.

Animals, he says, may not speak, but they communicate constantly. A cow stepping closer in comfort, a fearful dog relaxing during treatment, or an aggressive animal choosing not to bite, these are forms of silent dialogue.

Understanding behaviour, reading subtle cues, and responding with empathy are skills that define a true veterinarian. For him, science and sensitivity have always gone hand in hand.

The Mudhol Mission

Among his many contributions, his work with the Mudhol Hound stands out as particularly significant. At a time when indigenous breeds were overlooked, he played a key role in advancing their recognition and utility.

Through institutional efforts and research initiatives, the Mudhol breed found its place not only in formal recognition frameworks but also within the Indian defence services. Today, it stands as a symbol of India's native canine heritage, and Dr Yathiraj takes quiet pride in having contributed to that journey.

LVHRC Lakeside Veterinary Hospital & Research Center

Ethics, Compassion, and Difficult Decisions

Veterinary practice carries deep emotional complexity, especially around euthanasia. Dr Yathiraj distinguishes between human convenience and humane necessity, emphasising that when an animal is beyond recovery and in irreversible pain, euthanasia becomes an act of mercy. Such decisions, he believes, must always prioritise the animal's welfare above all else.

Advice to the Next Generation

To young veterinarians, his message is simple yet profound.

Do not enter the profession for money. Enter it with commitment, and success will follow. Love animals, but also respect the science behind their care. Continue learning, because knowledge alone is not enough; it must evolve into wisdom.

Above all, uphold ethics. In a profession built on trust, integrity is the only foundation that endures.

A Life Still in Motion

Even after retiring in 2017, Dr Yathiraj continues to practice, reaffirming his lifelong commitment to veterinary science and purposeful service.

Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre hit back at BJP leaders' criticism of the State Government's power tariff hike, urging them to reflect on the situation that prevailed during the BJP's tenure in Karnataka. He pointed out that petrol, diesel and LPG prices have soared across the country

MODI NOT IN FAVOUR OF SOCIAL JUSTICE: SIDDU

CM calls for delimitation after fresh census, says PM politicising issue

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the Basava Jayanti Celebrations at Chalukya Circle in Bengaluru on Monday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Delimitation before a census will lead to injustice for southern states. Representation must be based on updated population data to ensure fairness
— Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

KARNATAKA Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of politicising the issue of women's reservation in legislative bodies and lacking commitment to social justice.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Monday, Siddaramaiah questioned why the Union Government had not implemented women's reservation earlier if it was genuinely committed to the cause. "If there was real intent, it would have been implemented long ago. Why was it not done in 2023 itself?" the CM asked.

He pointed out that Congress had historically championed social justice measures, including the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, and introduced 50% reservation for women in local bodies. Siddaramaiah said his government opposed the proposed delimitation exercise for this very reason. He reiterated that the Congress has always supported women's reservation.

Referring to welfare guarantees, Siddaramaiah said that Modi had opposed such schemes in 2023, but is now announcing similar initiatives. "The same leaders who criticised guarantees are now including them in their promises," Siddaramaiah said.

Recalling his recent interaction with the PM during his visit to Bengaluru, Siddaramaiah said Modi had asked about his stance on women's reservation. "I clearly told him that we are in favour of it," the CM said. Responding to Modi's allegation that Congress had killed the Women's Reservation Bill, Siddaramaiah termed the statement discriminatory and said it reflected a lack of commitment to social justice.

The CM warned that increasing Lok Sabha seats by 50% without a fresh census would be a disadvantage for southern states. Siddaramaiah argued that states in the south had effectively controlled population growth, unlike several northern states, and should not be penalised.

"Delimitation before a census will lead to injustice for southern states. Representation must be based on updated population data to ensure fairness," the CM said.

Siddaramaiah accused the Centre of politicising the issue, stating that introducing both women's reservation and delimitation together without the required two-thirds majority was unnecessary.

On Assembly elections, Siddaramaiah said that the DMK alliance will emerge victorious in Tamil Nadu and the UDF will win in Kerala.

BJP will face backlash in Bengal, TN polls: Alva

ENS @ Bengaluru

SENIOR Congress leader **Margaret Alva** on Monday said that the BJP brought the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, to implement the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies, keeping in mind the elections to the West Bengal and Tamil Nadu Assemblies. It will, however, face a backlash as it is falsely projecting it as an attempt to implement 33% reservation for women in elected bodies, she said. "The Women's Reservation Bill was passed unanimously in 2023, and it is in the statute book. What is the problem for the Centre to implement the same?" Alva, a former union minister, told reporters at the KPCC office in Bengaluru.

"The Centre knew that the Bill would be defeated. Yet, Amit Shah tried to get the support of the Opposition by threatening them with agencies such as the ED and CBI. We thank PM Narendra Modi for uniting the Opposition parties like never before," she said.

She said that the women of the country cannot be fooled. "What is the sinister game the government is trying to play?" she asked, attacking the Centre, saying it has been delaying the implementation of the women's reservation, linking it to the census and delimitation.

She further elaborated that the Women's Reservation Bill has been under discussion since the time of former PM Rajiv Gandhi, who had set up a 14-member committee by appointing her as the chairperson. "We prepared a report and studied what should be done to increase the dignity of women in 12 sectors. We submitted it to the government in 1989. In this report, we mainly advocated the political empowerment of women. No matter what position we give, empowerment is impossible without a political position," she elaborated.

D'GERE SOUTH BYPOLL AFTERMATH

Muslim leaders spar over disciplinary action, write to Cong high command

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

POST the Davanagere South bypoll, the Muslim leadership in Karnataka is continuing to spar over disciplinary action taken by the Congress against two MLCs — **K Abdul Jabbar**, who was suspended from the party, and Naseer Ahmed, who was removed as the CM's political secretary. While one group has attacked Deputy CM and KPCC president DK Shivakumar, holding him responsible for the 'harsh' action against the leaders, another group is defending Shivakumar. Karnataka State Muslim Organisations' Federation representatives, who held a press conference here on Monday, released copies of letters they wrote to the Congress high command, including Sonia Gandhi. They alleged that the Congress was indifferent to Muslims, despite the community standing by the party and playing a key role in bringing it to power in 2023.

"The KPCC chief has stated that no other party has provided as much protection to Muslims as the Congress has. This is highly condemnable. Protection is a right guaranteed to every citizen of this country by the Constitution. It is not a favour given by any party to any community. Providing protection is the duty of a government... If the Congress assumes that support given for the sake of a secular government is a weakness of Muslims, or they have no other option, it will prove very costly for the party politically," they warned. There were over 50 signatories from across the state.

Countering them is another group of Muslim leaders and KPCC office-bearers who defended the action against the MLCs for their alleged anti-party activities, which is helpful for the BJP. "It is clear the situation is a result of failure within a section of the Muslim leadership, which was unable to secure a ticket for a minority candidate," they said. The Congress was willing to consider a candidate from among several Muslim aspirants in Davanagere South. However, the leadership proposed only the name of Abdul Jabbar, disregarding several other capable aspirants, they claimed.

"It is also widely known among party workers that certain individuals, directly or indirectly, are engaged in anti-party activities. These factions contributed to divisions within the Muslim vote base, deliberately creating confusion and misleading supporters, and ultimately benefiting the BJP," they said. They also justified action against Jabbar and Naseer Ahmed, who reportedly refused to comply with the CM's directives. They urged the AICC not to succumb to pressure tactics or political blackmail.

Told DKS sidelining minority leaders in party not right: Satish

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Belagavi

PUBLIC Works Minister **Satish Jarkiholi** on Monday said he conveyed his concerns to KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on suspending minority leaders from the party. He asserted that sidelining these leaders during elections or organisational restructuring was not right.

He told reporters on Monday that the issue was discussed at length during his recent meeting with Shivakumar in Bengaluru. "I told him that keeping minority leaders away from the party or pushing them aside during elections or organisational exercises is not appropriate. He acknowledged the lapses and said the shortcomings would be corrected in the coming days," he said.

On his meeting with Shivakumar, Jarkiholi said there was no political significance to the interaction. "It was only a courtesy visit. It is natural to meet and discuss party organisation and government work," he said.

On Enforcement Directorate raids on the residences of MLA NA Haris' two sons – Mohammed Haris Nalapad and Omar Farook Nalapad, Jarkiholi said he had no specific information. "Such developments do occur. If raids have taken place, the matter should be addressed through legal means," he noted. On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation following the failure of Women's Reservation Bill, he said the government could have implemented the reservation soon after coming to power if it had the genuine intent. "Linking the implementation to delimitation and census made the process conditional. This linkage itself led to the bill's defeat. Whatever speech the Prime Minister makes, people now understand the intent behind it. The message has reached that it was merely an election gimmick," he said.

DIVINE RITUAL

People perform pooja to Hallikar cows on the occasion of Basava Jayanti in Chikkamagaluru on Monday | PTI

Do away with guarantee committees, BJP tells CM

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE BJP has urged the State Government to stop wasting taxpayers' money on the Guarantee Implementation Committees.

In a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council **Chalavadi Narayanaswamy** said the Guarantee Implementation Committees were constituted to distribute taxpayers' money to Congress workers, and that must be stopped immediately.

He said giving taxpayers' money to Congress workers is the height of misrule. The state government is also wasting money by granting cabinet rank to heads of boards and corporations that are incurring losses, he said. For the last two years, youths have been staging protests demanding that the government fill vacancies in government departments, but only 8,000 posts have been filled, and lakhs of youths are waiting for employment, he said. On the issue of internal reservation among the Scheduled Castes (SC), the state government has adopted a divide and rule strategy, he said, and accused the CM of attempting to use the issue for his political advantage instead of doing justice to the oppressed class.

Narayanaswamy also accused the government of diverting Rs 53,000 crore meant for the welfare of people from the SC/ST communities. He urged the government to use the money for the welfare of people from the SC/STs. The BJP leader also listed several other issues, including contractors' pending bills, the poor condition of many government school buildings, and corruption.

The Guarantee Implementation Committees were constituted to distribute taxpayers' money to Congress workers, and that must be stopped immediately
Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, LoP in Council, in his letter to CM Siddaramaiah

ED raids linked to Bitcoin investments, says Shobha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

UNION Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje on Monday alleged that politicians, particularly from the Congress, had invested in Bitcoin in foreign countries. She was reacting to the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) raids on the residence of close relatives of Congress leaders.

Responding to media queries regarding the ED raid, the Bengaluru MP said, "Congress has been continuously committing economic crimes. Bitcoin is one of them."

The raid was carried out based on information that there was investment in Bitcoin, she added.

Karandlaje asserted that the raids were not conducted without credible information and maintained that those found guilty would face punishment.

Accusing the Congress of corruption, she alleged that funds from the state were being diverted abroad and invested elsewhere.

She further criticised the party, stating that it had repeatedly evaded accountability in financial matters, and described the Congress government as corrupt.

'Sale proceeds used by Sriki, aides for personal benefit'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE investigation has been initiated based on multiple First Information Reports (FIRs) and chargesheets filed by the Karnataka police in a 2017 case involving the hacking of national and international websites, stealing of cryptocurrency, extortion and violation of Narcotic Drugs & Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 by Srikrishna and others.

"Investigation under PMLA has revealed the modus operandi by the accused persons, which includes hacking of websites/wallets to steal virtual digital assets (VDAs), data/money (Proceeds of crime); sale of stolen VDAs were routed through crypto trading platforms etc," the ED stated. The agency added that the said "sale proceeds were layered by transferring them through bank accounts. These sale proceeds were used by Srikrishna and his associates for personal benefit".

CRP personnel stand guard outside the residence of MLA NA Haris during the ED raid in Bengaluru on Monday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Goudar case: Spl court says some cops gave false evidence under oath

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

THE Special Court that sentenced Congress MLA and former minister Vinay Kulkarni, and 15 others to life imprisonment in the Yogesh Goudar murder case said that some police officials have deposed before the court that they had tendered false evidence under oath. The case was taken over by the CBI after allegations that the state police were not probing the 2016 murder case impartially.

In the recently delivered order, Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, the special court for the trial of criminal cases against sitting and former MPs/MLAs, made scathing remarks: "The police department in Karnataka is known for their dedication towards their duty. But, strangely, some of its officers have admitted to tendering false evidence before the court, which cannot be tolerated. Some punitive action is required to be initiated to prevent people from committing such blunders of deposing falsely before the court, which would erode the faith of the general public in the administration of justice."

The court noted that it is relevant to note that prosecution witnesses (PWs) Dr Dattatreya Gudaganti, Anand Erappa Uddannanavar, Vinayaka Binjiyavar, Mohan Yecharappa Mulmuttal, Vivekananda Dalawai had tendered their statements under Section 164 of CrPC, before the magistrate under oath, and they had narrated about the incident of murder. They turned hostile, and deposed before the court that they were pressurised by the CBI to tender the evidence in their manner to suit their needs.

The similarity can be seen in the evidence of another PW, Shivananda Chalavadi, who was holding an important post under the Police Department and also a Police Inspector at Dharwad Town Police Station. In his evidence, he has deposed that he was afraid of CBI, and hence he had deposed falsely under oath before the Magistrate. The very same manner is noticed in the evidence of PWs Babu Katagi, Shankaragouda Patil, Nataraj Sarj Desai and Vijay Kulkarni. This evidence indicates tendering false evidence before the court, the special court noted.

"Either false evidence must have been tendered before this court or before the Magistrate. Their act is nothing but making an attempt to sully the image and faith which the public has reposed in the judicial system," the court observed.

The court noted that despite a lapse of considerable time, none of the police officers had thought it fit to complain to their higher authorities or at least even to the court about the alleged threat given by CBI, the court noted.

DECISION ON KULKARNI'S FATE AFTER I RECEIVE COURT ORDER: KHADER

MANGALURU: Speaker UT Khader has said that the decision on Dharwad Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni's continuation as a legislator will be taken only after receiving the official court order on his sentencing. He also noted that Kulkarni has the option to appeal against the verdict in a higher court. If the higher court grants a stay on the life sentence, Kulkarni may continue as an MLA. Recently, Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Yogesh Goudar murder case. On the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, linked to delimitation of constituencies, Khader said he has no information on the basis on which the Centre is proceeding with the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies. Khader emphasised that whenever laws are framed, it is important to take everyone into confidence and ensure that no section of society faces injustice. Regarding cabinet expansion in the state, Khader maintained that he had no information about any such move and dismissed speculation about his own aspirations for a ministerial post. Khader said he will continue as Speaker as long as he is constitutionally permitted to hold the post. Khader added that if the party offers him a ticket in the future and the people elect him, he may consider the position of CM after 20 years. ENS

Dakshina Kannada MP Capt Brijesh Chowta has said that ship building has been revived in Mangaluru with Chowgule Shipyard delivering its first cargo vessel, 'FRISIAN FUTURE. Built in Mangaluru for global trade, this 8,500 DWT export vessel reflects not just engineering capability, said Capt Chowta

Greens flay widening of road passing through Nagarahole

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

CONSERVATIONISTS have approached the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) against widening of the Mysuru-Mananthavadi road (SH-17-D) that passes through the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve (NTR).

They told TNIE that the public works department (PWD) and the forest department are said to have violated the Supreme Court orders in this regard. The conservationists said that work on widening a 21-km stretch of the highway between Udbur and Bavali check posts has been taken up. They alleged that the forest department has taken no steps to stop the work. "Notwithstanding the legal position, the PWD has commenced work on the highway in violation of the SC orders. Forest officials have not initiated any action to stop the work," one of the applicants before the CEC alleged.

Of the 92.5-km stretch between Mysuru and Bavali, 63.6 km is outside the NTR and 28.9 km is inside it. Of the 28.9-km stretch, 11 km is in the core area of the tiger reserve. It is the prime habitat of elephants, tigers and gaurs. Elephants use this stretch from March to May to reach the Kabini backwaters, making it one of the largest elephant congregations.

The apex court while hearing IA 2278-2279 with 2275 in WP 202/1995 had issued directions to stop the road widening work and had imposed a ban on the movement of vehicles from 6pm to 6am on this stretch inside NTR. The CEC and the court accepted the recommendation made by the National Board for Wildlife Sub-committee on December 22, 2014 that status quo of the roads across national parks and core tiger habitats should be maintained. It was acknowledged that those roads could be maintained and repaired in the best manner possible in their current form and width. No further widening of roads inside the protected areas is allowed.

The applicants said the NBWL had clearly stated that if it is an existing asphalted road, then it should be maintained as it is. No widening of the asphalted surface or the road is permitted. But that rule is not being followed.

PWD officials were not available for comment. Kumar Pushkar, principal chief conservator of forests, wildlife, said no permission to widen the road has been given. Only repair and maintenance works have been undertaken inside the forest. Another senior forest official said there is pressure on forest officials over road widening and repair works outside the forest on either side, particularly in Kerala. It is nothing but a demand for equal road width and lifting the night traffic ban on roads passing through Bandipur and Nagarahole.

CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Artistes perform at Chalukya Circle on Basava Jayanti in Bengaluru on Monday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

'No confirmation of state going to SC on bike taxis'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

FOLLOWING reports that the government is planning to challenge in the Supreme Court a High Court of Karnataka order lifting the ban on bike taxi service in the state, Bike Taxi Welfare Association (BTWA) president Adi Narayan on Monday said there is no official confirmation.

"It is a critical source of livelihood and offer an affordable connectivity option to many," Narayan said, adding that the service also contributes to easing traffic congestion.

Narayan said the BTWA has been engaging in discussions with the stakeholders and efforts are underway within the government to formalise a comprehensive in the state. He said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi met representatives of the association and has written to CM Siddaramaiah, urging the creation of a framework to regulate bike taxis while protecting livelihoods.

The CM is said to have directed the chief secretary, as well as Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, to work on formulating a comprehensive policy, Narayan said.

Cops probe crime involving foreign tourist in Kodagu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Madikeri

KODAGU police are investigating an alleged crime involving a foreign woman at a homestay in Kutta village in Kodagu, near Kerala border. In a related development, a man from Jharkhand who worked as a caretaker at a homestay has been taken into custody. However, Superintendent of Police Bindu Mani RK clarified that the individual was arrested in connection with a separate case on different charges. She added that the police will continue to probe the reported incident involving the foreign national within the same jurisdiction. The SP declined to share further details.

EXPRESS READ

45 crude bombs seized in Shivamogga forest raid

SHIVAMOGGA: Forest officials seized 45 crude, country-made bombs allegedly intended for illegal hunting in a reserved forest stretch in Hosanagara taluk on Sunday, and arrested one person, officials said. The raid was launched on specific intelligence pointing to poaching activity near Harataalu village in Kerehalli hobli. The operation was carried out along the Kotetaarige–Haratalu road. Officials said three men — Dakappa (55), Bhaskar (55), and Nagaraj (53) — were allegedly found preparing to hunt using the explosives. While two of the suspects fled from the spot, Dakappa was taken into custody. A motorcycle was also seized during the operation. Dakappa was later produced before court. ENS

BMS College of Engg organises cultural fest

BENGALURU: BMS College of Engineering organised a cultural festival -- Utsava Trayana -- at its Bengaluru campus on April 17. Music director and singer Gurukiran Shetty, actors Darling Krishna and Chaitra J Achar were the chief guests. The event was presided over by members of the management board, principal and vice-principal. There was a fee waiver for students who secured ranks within 1,000 in CET and students with background in the defence forces. Cash prizes were awarded to winners of the Open House Project Exhibition. ENS

Hubballi flight lands at KIA amid bad weather, pax panic

AMIT S UPADHYE @Hubballi

THE passengers of Hubballi-bound flight from Hyderabad had some tense movements after attempts to land amid heavy winds failed and the flight had to be diverted.

The Fly91 flight which was scheduled to land at Hubballi Airport at 4.30 pm could not do so due to severe windy conditions and clouds over Hubballi. The aircraft hovered over the airport for sometime before heading to Kempegowda International Airport and landed at 7.30 pm. The airport authorities in Hubballi said there was no technical snag in the aircraft but the pilot tried to wait for the weather conditions to improve, hence he hovered in the sky.

However several passengers panicked over extended hovering time. Some of them made videos during the attempts to land during the crosswind conditions. "Similar weather conditions at Kolhapur airport also witnessed flight diversion. The IndiGo 7403 Navi Mumbai to Kolhapur flight had to be diverted to Mopa due to bad weather at Kolhapur Airport," said an official.

"The flight IC3401 flying from Hyderabad to Hubballi departed Hyderabad at 3 pm. On nearing Hubballi, the flight encountered bad weather due to which the flight was diverted. The flight subsequently returned to Hubballi and back to its home base in Hyderabad. Holding the aircraft over Hubballi and diverting to Bengaluru was part of the standard operating procedure," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the Undersigned advocate on behalf of my clients **Mr.K.M.Vijayaraju,** S/o Late Munishamappa, Aged about 61 years, Residing at: No. Ganugara Street, Kadugodi, Kadugodi Plantation, Bengaluru-560067. has filed petition for death certificate of Deceased here in named as **Mrs. Munichaudamma W/o Late.Munishamappa demised on 25.12.2013 at their residence Ganugara Street, Kadugodi, Bengaluru-560067,** If any parties who have objections with regard to issue of death certificate can appear before the Hon'ble **1st** A.C.J.M. Bengaluru **on 20/05/2026 at 11.00 A.M. in C.Misc. No. 710/2026.**

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Shirastedar
Hon'ble 1st A.C.J.M. Bengaluru
Miss USHA RANI .A, Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client intends to purchase/ acquire the property described in the Schedule hereto below, free from all encumbrances from **Mr. K. Kartheek**. Any person or persons, having any claim, interest or right on the property described in the Schedule written hereunder or any part thereof by way of any litigation(s) pending before any court or tribunal or governmental or statutory authority or by way of inheritance, sale, exchange, mortgage, lien, pledge, gift, trust, bequest, possession, lease, charge, easement, grant, tenancy or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate the same to the undersigned in writing within ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/its claim, if any, with all supporting documents, failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim, and the claims, if any, of such person (s) shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

THE SCHEDULE REFERRED TO ABOVE

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the immovable property bearing Site No. 396, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034, measuring 371.61 square meters (~ 4,000 square feet), bounded by:
East by : Site No. 395 ;
West by : Site No. 397;
North by : Site No. 382;
South by : Road.

Vivek Tewary,
Senior Partner
Trust Law Advocates and Solicitors
29/11, 1st floor, Udaya Sahakara Bhavana, 1st main, Mount Joy Rd, Hanumanthnagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560050
E-mail:vivek.tewary@trustlaw.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

I R.Mahendravarma practicing Advocate at Bangalore and now I issuing this public notice on behalf of my clients 1.Smt.Sushila Bai 2.Venkobarao.N 3. Yeshoda Bai, all are children's of Smt.Tarabai W/o Late. Narayanarao and Smt.Sunithabai.S W/o.late N.Vitta Irao and Daughter in law of Smt.Tarabai W/o Late.Narayan rao and all are residing at Mathikere, Yeshwanthapura, Bangalore and now they have submits that Smt.Tarabai W/o. Narayan rao was the absolute sole owner of property formed of Sy.No.16 and situated at Corporation 1st Division, Mathikere village, Yeshwanthapura Bangalore and measuring about East to West 30 feet and North to South 30 feet and she has acquired same through registered sale deed dated 24.03.1973 and same document duly regis tered as document No.6481/1972-73 and same document registered before sub-regi strar Rajajinagar Bangalore and after acquired of same schedule property by said Smt.Tarabai has continued her peaceful possession on same schedule property with her legal heirs stated above, on 31.04.2015, the said Smt. Tarabai died leaving behind afore said my clients and before death of Smt.Tarabai has executed her last Will on 13.02.2015 before Witness Called Smt.Sakku bai and Sri. Venkatarama rao and as per the said Will she bequeathed said property into the names of Smt.Sushila Bai, Sri.Venkobarao, Yeshoda Bai and Smt.Sunithabai.S and now my clients confirms that they have not find original Will dated 13.02.2015 and Sale deed 24.03.1973 stated above, hence any persons finding the originals above documents or any person having any claim on same property and in any manner should write to the undersigned with documentary proof in support of your claim within 15 days of issuances of this notice, failing which my client will proceed on the basis that there are no claims over the same listed documents.

SD/- R.Mahendravarma Advocate
No.42, R.G.Nagar, M.S.Playa, Bangalore-560097, **M-7795488467**

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the General Public that my client **Sri.H.D.NAIK @ HIRIADKA DAYANANDA NAIK, S/o Hiriadka Jagannatha Naik,** Residing at No.126, Charles Campbell Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru - 560 005, has lost/misplaced the Original Sale deed dated:06/10/1967, registered as **Document No.1939/1967-68,** in the office of the Sub-Registrar Shivajinagar, Bangalore, Copy of Will of Shri. Subrahmanyam and Letter Dt:15/12/1987, in respect of residential property bearing **No.59/2**, Old PID No.85-32-59/2, vide **New E-PID No.5359878895**, Ward No.79, Sarvagna Nagara, Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Bengaluru situated at Charles Campbell Road (Ramakrishnappa Road), Cox Town, Bengaluru - 560 005. The said documents are not traceable in-spite of my client's best efforts. My client has also lodged a police complaint in this regard. General Public is further informed that if anyone comes in possession of aforesaid documents, they may return it to the undersigned.

NANDINI .B, Advocate
No.24/10, 1st Floor, Haudin Road, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560042. **M - 91488 26141**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **NANDHISH.R S/o Ravanappa,** R/at No.8/1, A cross, 8th Main, Sri.R.K. Paramahmsa Road, near HDFC bank, NRI Layout, Kalkere Vilage, Horamavu Post, Bangalore South has enterred into an Agreement/ sale deed with **Dr. Farzana. M.Ahmed, D/o late. Mushtaq Ahmed** R/at Flat. No.303, Donata Ecstasy, No.35, Davis Road, St Thomas Town, Bangalore - 560084. Dr. Farzana.M.Ahmed is the owner of the residential site bearing No.8 Anneshwara Grama Panchayath, Chikkasanne Village, Katha No. 199/8, PID No. 150300201901000286, Old Khatha No. 199 measuring east to West 60 feet, North to South 40 feet (Comprised in the layout know as 'Brindavan Enclave' formed in residentially converted land bearing Sy.No.67) situated at **Chikkasanne Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli taluk, Bangalore rural District,** bounded on **East by** Site No.20, **West by:** Bangalore Hyderabad Highway, **North by** Road. **South by ;** site No.7. If any on has any claim/ complaints regarding the above deal, you are advised to contact me with in **7 days** of this Public notice.

VENDORS
N. KEMPEGOWDA, T.K. SAVITHRAMMA
Advocates, N.K.S. ASSOCIATES,
Dandi Complex, Giriyamma Circle, Devanahalli Town. Mobile : 9901914180, 9945262267,

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client has negotiated to purchase the property shown in the Schedule below from **Sri. H.D. NAIK @ HIRIADKA DAYANANDA NAIK,** S/o Hiriadka Jagannatha Naik, Residing at No.126, Charles Campbell Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru - 560 005 **("Owner").** The above-named person has represented that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property. Any person/s, institution/s having any right, title, claim or interest of any nature in the Schedule Property or any objections of any manner whatsoever to the above sale transaction between my client and the **Owner**, is/are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned and file objections/claims along-with supporting documents within **15 days** from the date of publication of this Notice at the address mentioned below. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that the above-mentioned owner has clear and marketable title to the property specified below and that others do not have any claim over the same and/or claims if any will be deemed to have been waived. Any claims raised thereafter shall not be entertained or binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF residential property bearing **No.59/2**, Old PID No.85-32-59/2, vide **New E-PID No.5359878895**, Ward No.79, Sarvagna Nagara, Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Bengaluru situated at Charles Campbell Road (Ramakrishnappa Road), Cox Town, Bengaluru - 560 005, measuring on the East: 43 Feet; West: 44 Feet; on the North: 70 Feet and on the South: 79 feet, in all measuring to an extent of 3204 sq.ft., and bounded on the :- East by : Portion of Site No.59/1, West by : Charles Campbell Road, North by : Portion of Site No.59/1 and South by : Plot No.59/3

HITESH KUMAR JAIN, Advocate
HM LEGAL
No.24/10, 1st Floor, Haudin Road, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560042. E - hmlegal@outlook.in
M - 9844372444 / 9740071833

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property shown in the Schedule below from **Sri. H.D. NAIK @ HIRIADKA DAYANANDA NAIK,** S/o Hiriadka Jagannatha Naik, Residing at No.126, Charles Campbell Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru - 560 005 **("Owner").** The above-named person has represented that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property. Any person/s, institution/s having any right, title, claim or interest of any nature in the Schedule Property or any objections of any manner whatsoever to the above sale transaction between my client and the **Owner**, is/are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned and file objections/claims along-with supporting documents within **15 days** from the date of publication of this Notice at the address mentioned below. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that the above-mentioned owner has clear and marketable title to the property specified below and that others do not have any claim over the same and/or claims if any will be deemed to have been waived. Any claims raised thereafter shall not be entertained or binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF residential property bearing **No.59/2**, Old PID No.85-32-59/2, vide **New E-PID No.5359878895**, Ward No.79, Sarvagna Nagara, Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Bengaluru situated at Charles Campbell Road (Ramakrishnappa Road), Cox Town, Bengaluru - 560 005, measuring on the East: 43 Feet; West: 44 Feet; on the North: 70 Feet and on the South: 79 feet, in all measuring to an extent of 3204 sq.ft., and bounded on the :- East by : Portion of Site No.59/1, West by : Charles Campbell Road, North by : Portion of Site No.59/1 and South by : Plot No.59/3

HITESH KUMAR JAIN, Advocate
HM LEGAL
No.24/10, 1st Floor, Haudin Road, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560042. E - hmlegal@outlook.in
M - 9844372444 / 9740071833

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड
(एक महारत्न कंपनी)

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd **www.coalindia.in** / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**".

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

E-Auction program for the month of MAY & JUNE -2026
PUB/077

MAY e- Auction -2026	
DATE	DIVISIONS/DEPOTS
01.05.26	Tirupati.
04.05.26	Nanded
05.05.26	Vijayawada
06.05.26	Secunderabad
07.05.26	Guntur
08.05.26	Guntakal
11.05.26	Rayanapadu
12.05.26	Hyderabad
13.05.26	Secunderabad
14.05.26	Tirupati
15.05.26	Nanded
18.05.26	Vijayawada
19.05.26	Lallaguda
20.05.26	Guntur
21.05.26	Guntakal
22.05.26	Rayanapadu
25.05.26	Vijayawada
26.05.26	Secunderabad
28.05.26	Hyderabad
29.05.26	Lallaguda
JUNE e- Auction 2026	
DATE	DIVISIONS/DEPOTS
01.06.26	Tirupati
02.06.26	Nanded
03.06.26	Vijayawada
04.06.26	Secunderabad
05.06.26	Guntur
08.06.26	Guntakal
09.06.26	Rayanapadu
10.06.26	Hyderabad
11.06. 26	Secunderabad
12.06.26	Tirupati
15.06.26	Nanded
16.06.26	Vijayawada
17.06.26	Lallaguda
18.06.26	Guntur
19.06.26	Guntakal
22.06.26	Rayanapadu
23.06.26	Vijayawada
24.06.26	Secunderabad
29.06.26	Lallaguda
30.06.26	Guntakal,Hyderabad

A089 **Principal Chief Materials Manager/Secunderabad**

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client Mrs. **Ranjitha S.,** W/o. Shiva Kumar S. is proposing to purchase the Property bearing Site No. 131, BBMP Khatha No. 131/131/131, formed in converted land bearing Sy. Nos. 12 & 15, situated at Naganathpura Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under the limits of BBMP, measuring East to West: 46 feet and North to South: 37.5 feet, in totally 1725 sq.ft., and bounded on the East by Site No. 130, West by Road, North by Site No. 133 and South by Private Property, presently owned by Mrs. Lokeshwari Nandish W/o. Mr. K.B. Nandish. The subject Site No. 131 is situated within the circumference of Sy.No. 15.

If anybody having any objection for the same or anybody having any claim, charge, dispute, litigation on the said property, is requested to contact the undersigned **within 7 days** of the publication of this notice. Any claim made after the period of 7 days will not be binding on my client.

SOMASHEKHARA .A.N, Advocate
AASTHI LAW CHAMBERS
No. 21/1, Girls School Street, Kumarapark West, Bengaluru - 560020

PUBLIC NOTICE

1The general public are hereby notified that my client **KARTHIKEYAN KATHIRESAN,** S/o KATHIRESAN NATARAJAN, aged about 33 years, residing at No. C1-202, 2ndfloor, Poetree Apartment, 12th Cross Road, Kasavanahalli, BENGALURU 560 035 intends to purchase the All the piece and parcel Residential Unit bearing No. B2, E Khatha No. 150200100100223087, Type- Orange, "NVT SYMPHONY OF ORCHARDS" constructed on the converted land bearing Sy. Nos. 41/1, 41/2, 41/4, 42/3, 45/1, 45/2, 45/4, 45/5, 50/1, 50/2 of Chambenahalli Village and Sy. Nos. 78, 79/1, 79/2, 85, 87/1, 87/2 of Kallahalli Village, situated at Chambenahalli & Kallahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural Dist measuring 2931 sq.ft of built-up area alongwith 1860 sq.ft of land area from Smt. Muniyamma, Sreenivas and Sushma S. through their GPA holder M/s NVT Quality lifestyle Estate LLP. Further, Smt. Muniyamma and others through their GPA M/s NVT Quality lifestyle Estate LLP have confirmed that the above mentioned property is free from all charges/encumbrance. Any person/s having any objection/s or claims with regard to the property mentioned herein may with documentary evidence lodged their objection/claims **within 15 days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my client, will proceed in purchasing the said property by availing loan from State Bank of India.

M.R. RAJINI, Advocate
No. 31, 1st A Cross, Doraisanipalya, B.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 078. (M) 9535982832
Mail: rajiniraju16@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client M/s. Spurthi Enterprises, represented by is Proprietor intends to purchase the Schedule Property from KIADB. If any person, bank, or authority has objections to the proposed sale or claims on the property, please lodge them with documentary proof within 10 days from the publication date of this notice. If no objections are received, it will be presumed the property is free from encumbrances, and my client will proceed with the purchase. Claims received after this period may not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the Piece and Parcel of land known as Plot No. 164 on the Obedenahalli Industrial Area Doddaballapura 3rd Phase, comprised Sy. No. 86/1 of Village Sunnaghatta, Hobli Kundana, Taluk Devenahalli, Bengaluru Rural containing by admeasurement 4005 Sqr.mtrs or there bouts and bounded as follows:

East by : Plot No. 163
West by : Plot No. 165
North by : KIADB 18M Wide Road No.31
South by : KIADB Park No.5

A. P. LAW ASSOCIATES
No.1642/28, 3rd Main, 1st Cross, Ramamohanpuram Near Srirampura Metro Station, (Behind Devaiah Park), Bengaluru-560021.
Mob: 9844378777/6263583397
Date: 18.04.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that I am investigating the right, title and interest of **Sri. K. Raghavendra** and **Kum. K. Leelavathi,** to the property described in the Schedule below and hereinafter referred to as Schedule Property. The aforesaid Sri. K. Raghavendra, and Kum. K. Leelavathi have represented to my client Sri. H. D. Abhijith that they are the co-owners in possession of the Schedule Property having absolute right of alienation over the Schedule Property and that none else has any manner of right over the Schedule Property.

Any person claiming to have any manner of right, title, claim or interest over the Schedule Property is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with supporting documents thereof within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of this notice after which period, our clients shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of any nature whatsoever with regard to the Schedule Property or any part thereof nor any objection for the purchase of the Schedule Property by my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing new Municipal No. 24, 11th Cross, II Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 011 (formerly Site No. 366, II Block, Jayanagar Extension), PID No. 50-62-24, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 60 feet, in all measuring 2,400 square feet, together with the building constructed thereon, and bounded as follows:- East By : 8th Main Road, West By : 11th Cross Road (previously 12th Cross Road), North By : Site No. 365, South By : Site No. 353

RAJESH B. L., ADVOCATE
No.24, IV Model House Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560 004.
Email - rajesh@hsdassociates.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from its present owners (1) Syam Vaidyanath Sarma, S/o. Swaminatha Sarma and (2) V. Annapurna W/o. Swaminatha Sarma. Our client is informed that the Schedule Property was initially purchased by Kalpana S. D/o. Swaminatha Sarma who passed away unmarried and without any children.

If anybody has any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/details of dispute/s within **fifteen (15) days** from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owners as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Flat No. E-304, Third floor, Tower-II, Wing-E, measuring about 1335 Sq. Ft. with one covered car parking, in the apartment complex known as "Keerthi Gardenia" constructed on Sy. No. 61/1, measuring 4 acres 08 guntas situated at Thubarahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru.

Sd/- **RAHUL .M,** Advocate
No. 640/40, 22nd Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560 041.
Mob.: 9538003963
E-mail: rahul.mallikarjun@gmail.com

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India invites On-line bids for following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Description	Qty. (Nos./Sets)	EMD (₹)
1.	02261118 08/05/2026	Harness of underframe and roof arrangement for LHB Power Car type Coaches	–	19,65,890/-
2.	05261210 13/05/2026	Under frame complete for LHB GS (EOG) Coaches.	51 Nos.	12,24,010/-
3.	05261225 06/05/2026	2 types of set of side wall & roof assembly for LHB Coaches PL No. 33559650	74 Set	20,00,000/-
		PL No. 33559661	198 Set	
4.	05261223 11/05/2026	Under frame complete for LHB SLR Coaches.	22 Nos.	5,45,160/-
5.	05261213 11/05/2026	Under frame complete for LHB SCN (EOG) Coaches.	45 Nos.	9,94,710/-
6.	05261015A 18/05/2026	Flat Roof Assly. for Vande Bharat TC type Coaches (PL No.33564310)	16 set	1,32,160/-
7.	14261026 07/05/2026	PVC Flooring Roll for Bangladesh Coaches	252 Nos.	1,94,830/-
8.	05261103 20/05/2026	Through Floor assembly complete for 3 Phase MEMU/DMC Coach (PL No. 37980786)	44 Nos.	2,47,140/-
9.	14261022 14/05/2026	PU Paints for LHB Coaches	508 Set	5,14,650/-
10.	17251401B 13/05/2026	(I) Set of Luggage Rack Modules for LHB Non AC Chair Car Coaches	82 Set	8,69,530/-
		(ii) Luggage Rack Modules (without Lights) for LHB 2nd AC Chair Car Coaches	18 Set	
11.	05261212 07/05/2026	End Part Complete	96 Nos.	4,37,260/-
12.	05261222 08/05/2026	Set of Front Part	26 set	1,75,240/-

1. For details and making On-line tenders, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in.** Drawings/ specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in.** Class IIIb digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at **http://www.cce.gov.in.** 2. Tenders will close at 14.25 Hrs. on due date and will be opened at 14.30 Hrs. Tenders Sr. No.1 to 10 will be opened at RCF Kapurthala and Sr. No. 11 to 12 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi. 3. For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658. **Note:** GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them. **PCMM**

CORRIGENDUM

The following amendment is authorized against **(1)** Tender No. **17261004** and **17261006** due on 17.04.2026 regarding due date to be read as 24.04.2026 instead of 17.04.2026, Condition added as Annexure 'D' in tender document and Eligibility Criteria is modified for both the tender. **(2)** Tender No. **17261118** due on 17.04.2026 for procurement of FRP Modular Toilet Pre Assembled without Lavatory Bowl facing regarding due date to be read as 27.04.2026 instead 17.04.2026. All other terms and conditions will remain the same. **PCMM**

R.O. No.: 008-S/2026-27 **Dated: 20.04.2026**

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

ई–निविदा सूचना सं./ e- Tender Notice No: PT-AC-26-001 तिथि/ Date. 16/04/2026

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, **"एसएलपी क्षेत्र के एसपी2बी में मौजूदा एएचयू– 5ए (ईंधन तापमान और स्थिरीकरण) को भूतल से पहली मंजिलपर स्थानांतरितकरना।" (अनुमानित लागत ₹7.98 लाख)** के लिए ई–निविदा के माध्यम से मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। **निविदा दस्तावेज 04.05.2026 को 14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** पर जा सकते हैं।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Relocation of Existing AHU- 5A (Fuel temperature and Stabilization) from ground floor to the first floor in SP2B, SLP Area (Aircondition work)" (Estimated cost: ₹7.98 Lakhs).** Tender documents can be downloaded up to **04.05.2026, 14:30 hrs.**. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / **Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR**

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Chola Enter a better life
Corporate Office: " CHOLA CREST " C 54 & 55, Super B – 4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600032.
Branch : 2nd Floor, No. 1143 MIG, 16th B Cross, 2nd Stage B Sector, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore - 560064.

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (1) (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13[12] read with Rules 3 of the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column [B] below on dates specified in Column [C] to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column [D] below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken **symbolic possession** of the properties mortgaged with the Company described in Column [E] herein below on
the respective dates mentioned in Column [F] in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13[4] of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules made there under.The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column [E] below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of **M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited** for an amount mentioned in Column [D] along with interest and other charges.
Under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstandingincluding all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.

Loan A/c. Name & Address of Borrower	Date of Demand notice	Outstanding Amount	Date of Possession
Loan A/c No. : HE01YAA00000022693 **1) Nuvocraft Apparels India Private Limited**, No. 01, Aziz Sait Industrial Town, Nayandahalli, Mysore Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560039. **(2) Rajinirekha Yedla And Govindaraju Yedla, Both are residing in same address :** No. 108, 12 B Cross, J P Nagar, 2nd Phase, Bangalore South, Karnataka-560078. **(3) Govindaraju Yedla,** No. 01, Aziz Sait Industrial Town, Nayandahalli, Mysore Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560039. **(4) Stephenverghese,** No. 01, Aziz Sait Industrial Town, Nayandahalli, Mysore Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560039. **(5) Stephenverghese,** No. 103, Casa Maria Apartment, No. 19/5, Lewis Road, Cooke Town, Bangalore North Bangalore, Karnataka-560005.	10.02.2026	**Rs. 2,50,49,039/-** as on 10.02.2026 and interest thereon	18.04.2026

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY : All that piece and Parcel of the property bearing Site No.465, Jayanagar, 8th Block, Bangalore, Now as BBMP records old No.465, New No.32, 45th Cross, 8th Block Jayanagar, Bangalore PID No.58-96-32, Presently within the limit of BBMP and **bounded on the : East by :** Site No. 464, **West by :** Site No. 466, **North by :** Site No. 462, **South by :** South End Road. Measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 50 feet in all measuring 1500 Square feet along with building consisting GF+FF, constructed thereon. Within the Registration District of Bangalore and Sub Registration Office.

Date : 21.04.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited**

Assembly Speaker UT Khader on Monday said Anganwadi workers and helpers have played an important role in eliminating malnutrition in the country and stressed the need to address the issues faced by them. He said they are not primarily concerned about grants or salaries, but are committed to ensuring that government schemes reach people and benefit children and mothers

SYSTEMIC VIOLATIONS

Lax officials let teen pregnancies go unrecorded

Raids expose illegal scanning by private labs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

INSPECTIONS conducted by Lokayukta officials at private scanning centres in KR Pet taluk of Mandya district have exposed serious irregularities, including conducting illegal scanning of pregnant minor girls, revealed a report.

Lokayukta teams conducted raids during the past two days at several taluk hospitals, as well as private diagnostic and scanning centres across the district. The officials have since compiled a detailed report, highlighting multiple violations and systemic lapses in the enforcement of law, sources said.

The report has highlighted blatant violations of the Preconception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, particularly Section 8(1), which mandates monitoring of scanning centres every 90 days. The office of the district health officer (DHO) has failed to maintain any record of such inspections, it said.

The report also revealed that authorities, specifically the subdivisional officers of Mandya and Pandavapura also failed to conduct mandatory inspections at diagnostic centres, as required under the law.

One of the most alarming findings is that at least seven pregnant minor girls were subjected to ultrasound scans in violation of legal norms. In addition, 64 pregnant women aged between 18 and 20 have also undergone scans without obtaining valid age verification documents.

The report also notes major discrepancies in record-keeping at private scanning centres in KR Pet taluk. Despite identifying cases involving minor pregnancies, scanning centres failed to inform local police authorities, as mandated by law. In addition, the details of such scans were not properly documented, raising concerns about possible concealment of offences.

The Lokayukta team is said to have found that government gynaecologists were not referring pregnant women to higher-level government hospitals for scans. Instead, they were directing them to private scanning centres, allegedly to benefit private operators.

Tumkur varsity profs' short-cut to promotion exposed

RASHMI PATIL @ Bengaluru

TWO faculty members of the Kannada Department in Tumkur University are in the dock for falsely claiming that their articles were published in 'Indian Literature', a reputed journal brought out by Kendra Sahitya Akademi (KSA), in their attempts to get promotions.

While Professor Annamma sought promotion to the level of senior professor, Associate Professor PM Gangadharaiah sought promotion as professor. The duo submitted forged copies of the journal to Vice-Chancellor Prof M Venkateshwarlu to stake the claim. They claimed that their research articles – eight by Prof Annamma and three by Asst Prof Gangadharaiah – were published in the September–October 2024 issue of the journal.

Prof Annamma also submitted eight certificates, purportedly issued by the journal, to support her claim. However, it emerged that the certificates contained forged signatures of Prof Madhav Kaushik, the editor of the journal.

Prof Venkateshwarlu said, "Two committees were formed to check the veracity of the articles and both panels found that they were fake. We sought clarifications from the professors, but they insist that those articles are not fake. Both of them are still in service at the University." Copies of these fake certificates and articles of Professor Annamma are accessed by *TNIE*.

The V-C said the KSA has confirmed to him that no articles by the duo were published in their journal. The KSA's reply to the V-C, a copy of which is obtained by *TNIE*, read, "... Sahitya Akademi's bi-monthly journal, Indian Literature, has not published, in any form, any contribution authored by Dr Annamma or Dr PM Gangadharaiah in any of its issues. In addition, Sahitya Akademi has never issued any certificate in the past as mentioned in your letter, nor do we have any policy or record of issuing such certificates..."

Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University Vice-Chancellor Ramesh B, who was earlier the director of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), also wrote to Prof Venkateshwarlu in September 2025, "Whenever professors submit research articles or papers to the university registrar, they conduct a basic scrutiny. If there are any doubts, they are forwarded to the IQAC in which subject experts are appointed by the V-C... In this instance, the subject expert identified that the articles, as well as the journal submitted, were fake."

Prof Annamma, however, told *TNIE*, "I have given a clarification to the V-C and I don't like to comment about the same." Prof Ganagdaraiah, said, "It is a conspiracy against me by some people working in Tumkur university to spoil my reputation and assassinate my character."

THREE JUMBOS STUCK IN SLUSH RESCUED

MYSURU: In a 17-hour operation, three wild elephants were rescued after they got stuck in slush when they arrived to drink water at the Uduthore reservoir in Hanur taluk on Monday. The incident occurred in the Hanur buffer zone of the Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary. Forest officials said a herd of four elephants had entered the reservoir to quench thirst. However, despite struggling for hours, three of them were unable to climb back to safety. Forest patrol staff spotted the animals in distress and immediately, a rescue team led by Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) Bhaskar B and Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Viraj rushed to the spot along with Fire and Emergency personnel. The team carried out a coordinated rescue operation and helped the trapped elephants crawl out of the slush. **ENS**

Emission testing centres decry software glitches

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

OWNERS of emission testing centres across the state have alleged that they have been facing operational disruptions, financial losses and lack of technical support since the introduction of new software.

In a letter to the commissioner of the transport department on April 17, the Karnataka Emission Testing Centres Owners' Association said the government's decision to replace the widely used software of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) with a private vendor solution has affected them. The software developed by Meru Info Solutions was introduced on April 1, allegedly without adequate trials or consultations with stakeholders.

The operators claimed that the software has been malfunctioning, increasing the time taken for each emission test from 5-10 minutes to 20-30 minutes. The delays, coupled with additional steps such as photo and video capture, have reportedly led to long queues and loss of customers. "Around 25,000 emission tests were being conducted daily across the state. But after the introduction of the new software, the number of tests has come down to around 10,000," Yogesh, president of the association, said.

Referring to poor technical support, the association said that helplines and WhatsApp groups set up for assistance have been largely unresponsive. With thousands of centres operating across the state, the available support is insufficient to address the issues being faced by them.

The association said problems related to the integration of the software with the national VAHAN database have affected certificate validity updates and access to out-of-state vehicle data, undermining the system's reliability. The operators also flagged financial concerns, including increased certificate charges, from Rs 3.25 to Rs 13.80, and losses due to system errors such as duplicate certificate deductions and recharge amounts not reflecting.

The association said continued disruptions could force several centres to shut down. It urged the government to either reintroduce the NIC software or immediately fix the software glitches, ensure adequate technical support, and streamline operations to prevent losses.

JEE results out: Two Karnataka students score 99.99%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TWO students from Karnataka have scored 99.99% to emerge state toppers in JEE Mains Session 2 examinations. The National Testing Agency (NTA) announced the results on Monday evening.

Vishnu Sai Theja, a student of Narayana CO Kaveri Bhavan in Bengaluru who topped the Joint Entrance Examination-2026 (JEE Main) Session 1, has again emerged the state's topper in JEE Mains Session 2 by scoring 99.99% BE/BTech. Adarsh Kumar Behera, another student from Karnataka, has scored 99.99 percentile of score with second topper in Scheduled Caste (SC) category list.

Theja secured 28th place among 53 top-scorers. "It was an integrated learning for me as I studied the usual Class 12 syllabus along with the JEE Mains and Advanced exam. I aim to get All India Rank (AIR) within 100% in the JEE (Advanced), so that I get admissions into IIT-Bombay or IIT-Madras. I also aim to study Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence," said Theja.

While the JEE 2026 (mains) Session-1, Paper-1 was held in January, Session 2 was held in March. This time, 26 candidates secured 100% score, but none of them were from Karnataka. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, with five students each, topped the list of students scoring 100%, followed by Delhi (NCT) with three students and Haryana and Maharashtra with two students each to score full marks.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large that the undersigned Advocate is investigating the title and ownership rights of the owners listed in the table below (collectively referred to herein as the "**Owners**"), in respect of the properties described against their names in the Schedule below and collectively referred to herein as the "**Schedule Properties**".

The Owners have represented that they are the absolute owners of their respective land parcels comprised in the Schedule Properties.

Public is notified that if any person/s, entity, company, firm or institution has or asserts any right, title or interest by way of sale, lease, license, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien, easement, objection, agency, license, gift, inheritance, share, possession, assignment, right of prescription or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit, decree, injunction order or attachment or award passed by any Court or Authority litigation, lis-pendens, decree or order of any adjudicating authority, exchange, partition, power of attorney, will, bequest, FSI, tenancy, development rights, family arrangement /settlement, allotment, acquisition, requisition, beneficial right / interest under any trust, pending litigation,claim, demand or any other interest of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Properties or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details and documents in support of such claim within **15** (**fifteen**) **days** from the date of this Notice, failing which it shall conclusively be presumed and deemed that the Owners have a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Properties and that no one else has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties and claim/s if any, will be deemed to have been waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties being converted for non-agriculture residential purpose described herein below are situated at Shetterahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, and held by the respective Owners as hereunder:

Owners	Sy. Nos.	Extent			Boundaries			
		Acre	Guntas	Kharab	East by	West by	North by	South by
Mr. Punit Naresh Shah(son of Late Naresh J Shah) subject to the rights of Tangled Up In Green Properties Private Limited pursuant to the Joint Development Agreement dated 24.06.2022 GPA dated 24.06.2022	104/1	2	11	2	Sy Nos. 104/2, 104/3, 101 & 102	Sy No. 105	Sy Nos. 87/1, 104/2 & 104/3	Sy No. 103/2
	65	4	11	6	Sy No. 66	Sy No. 63	Sy No. 64	Sy No. 79
	76/1	1	19	3	Sy No. 76/2	Sy No. 77	Sy No. 68/1	Sy No. 88/1
	68/1	1	22	0	Sy No. 68/2	Sy No. 67	Sy No. 56/1	Sy No. 76/1
	64	4	17	6	Sy No. 58	Sy Nos. 62&63	Sy No. 60	Sy No. 65
	45/1	1	23	0	Sy No. 45/2	Sy No. 59	Sy Nos. 44/4 & 44/3	Sy No. 57/1
	60	5	37	9	Sy No. 59	Sy No. 61&62	Sy No. 42/2	Sy No. 64
	57/1	1	24	0	Sy No. 57/2	Sy No. 58	Sy No. 45/1	Sy No. 56/1
	84	6	35	12	Sy Nos. 85&86	Sy Nos. 82&83	Sy No. 78	Sy No. 107/2
	78	3	37	6	Sy No. 77	Sy No. 81	Sy No. 79	Sy No. 84
	79	4	0	6	Sy No. 67	Sy No. 80	Sy No. 65	Sy No. 78
	42/2	2	10	2	Sy No. 43/2	Sy No. 41	Sy No.42/1	Sy No. 60
	44/4	0	34	0	Sy No. 44/3	Sy Nos. 43/1 & 43/2	Sy No.44/1	Sy No. 45/1
Tangled Up In Green Properties Private Limited	36/1	1	10	0	Sy No. 36/3	Sy No. 37	Devanahalli and Doddaballapura Main Road	Sy No. 44/1
	37	5	19	0	Sy No. 36/1	Sy No. 38	Devanahalli and Doddaballapura Main Road	Sy No. 43/1
	38	6	29	8	Sy No. 37	Sy Nos. 39 & 40	Devanahalli and Doddaballapura Main Road	Sy No. 42/1
	42/1	2	25	3	Sy No. 43/1	Sy No. 41	Sy No. 38	Sy No. 42/2
	43/1	2	33	0	Sy Nos. 44/1 & 44/4	Sy No. 42/1	Sy No. 37	Sy No. 43/2
	44/1	0	24	0	Sy No. 44/3	Sy No. 43/1	Sy No. 36/1	Sy No. 44/4
	43/2	2	10	0	Sy No. 44/4	Sy No. 42/2	Sy No. 43/1	Sy No. 59
	106/2	2	22	1	Sy No. 103/2	Sy Nos. 107/1 & 107/2	Sy No. 105	Sy No. 106/1
	107/2	4	14	12.25	Sy Nos. 105 & 106/2	Sy Nos. 109 & 108	Sy No. 84	Sy No. 107/1
	77	5	0	0	Sy No. 76/1	Sy No. 78	Sy No. 67	Sy No. 85
	85	4	39	1	Sy No. 88/1	Sy No. 84	Sy No. 77	Sy No. 86
	105	4	37	3	Sy No. 104/1	Sy No. 107/2	Sy No. 86	Sy No. 106/2
	66	5	0	0	Sy No. 56/1	Sy No. 65	Sy No. 58	Sy No. 67
	86	4	37	3	Sy No. 87/1	Sy No. 84	Sy No. 85	Sy No. 105
	88/1	1	18	2	Sy No. 88/2	Sy No. 85	Sy No. 76/1	Sy No. 87/1
	87/1	1	20	0	Sy No. 87/2	Sy No. 86	Sy No. 88/1	Sy No. 104/1
	59	5	0	0	Sy No. 45/1	Sy No. 60	Sy No. 43/2	Sy No. 58
	56/1	1	23	0	Sy No. 56/2	Sy No. 66	Sy No. 57/1	Sy No. 68/1
	58	5	0	0	Sy No. 57/1	Sy No. 64	Sy No. 59	Sy No. 66
	67	5	0	0	Sy No. 68/1	Sy No. 79	Sy No. 66	Sy No. 77
	103/2	2	33	3	Sy No. 102	Sy No. 106/2	Sy No.104/1	Sy No. 103/1

Date : 21.04.2026

N.K. Dilip

Tatva Legal Bangalore, Advocates

4th Floor, Phoenix Pinnacle, No. 46, Ulsoor Road, Bengaluru - 560 042

आमेर विकास एवं प्रबन्धन प्राधिकरण

पुरानी विधानसभा भवन, हवामहल के पास, जयपुर, टेलीफोन नम्बर - 0141-2600032

ई-मेल आई.डी. :- adma.jaipur@gmail.com

क्रमांक :- ADMA/2026-27/535 दिनांक :- 16/04/2026

ई-बिड़ संख्या - 01/2026-27

प्राधिकरण के अधीन विभिन्न स्मारकों / संग्रहालयों यथा–राजकीय संग्रहालय व महल आमेर, नाहरगढ़ दुर्ग, जंतर–मंतर, राजकीय संग्रहालय हवामहल, राजकीय केन्द्रीय संग्रहालय अल्बर्ट हॉल एवं प्राधिकरण कार्यालय की सुरक्षा कार्य हेतु वर्ष 2026–27 की अवधि के लिये सुपरवाईजर / सुरक्षा गार्ड उपलब्ध करवाने हेतु इच्छुक बिडदाताओं से सुरक्षा कार्य हेतु दिनांक 17.04.2026 से दिनांक 07.05.2026 तक ई–बिड आमंत्रित की जाती है जिसका विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा व पढ़ा जा सकता है। बिड की कुल अनुमानित लागत राशि रू. 217.00 लाख है।

NIB code ADA2627A000

बिड यू.बी.एन. नम्बर :– 1. ADA2627SLOB00001

राज.संवाद/सी/26/1097 अतिरिक्त मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी

IndusInd Bank Limited

No. 25, Steeple Reach, A Block, Third Floor, Cathedral Road, Gopalapuram, Chennai – 600 001

PUBLIC NOTICE - (Under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/s.13 (2) of SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility availed by them from IndusInd Bank Limited (IBL), their loan credit facility has been classified as **Non-Performing Assets** in the books of the Bank as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, Bank has issued demand notices to below mentioned respective borrower under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act). on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below, together with further interest at the contractual rate on the below mentioned amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the service is also being done by us by way of this publication as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules):

Loan Account No: 785100014381 & 785100014372; NPA Date: 02/09/2025; Date of 13 (2) Notice: 03/12/2025; Demand Amount;**Rs. 1,68,20,852.5/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Eight Lakhs Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Two and Five Paisa only) as on 12th December 2025** Borrower: M/s. Varshitha Home Appliances, Rep. by its Proprietor, Mr. Siddachari, R. No. 22 Old no. 68/4A, Ground floor property, Near Bus stand, Kanakapura main road, Sarakki, Bangalore– 560 078, Co-borrowers: **Mr. Siddachari and Mrs. Sudha** – both residing at No. 94/C, Members Muniyappa Thotada road, Near CES School Kanakapura main road, Jaraganahalli grama, Bangalore South, Bangalore – 560078; **Description of Schedule of Property: -** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing BBMP Katha No. 53/53/19/5, assigned to site No. 19/5, Old No. 5, formed in land bearing survey No. 53, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet, situated at Jaraganahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore south Taluk, comprising of a building and bounded on the North by Site No. 6, South by Site No. 4, East by Road and West by Site No. 10 and All that piece and parcel of the property bearing BBMP katha No. 547/94/C, assigned to site No.94/C, Measuring East to West 20 feet and North to South 36 feet, situated at Jaraganahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore south Taluk, comprising of a building and bounded on the North by Property belongs to Mr. Veerabhadraiah; South by 17 feet wide road; East by Property belongs to Mr. C T Venkatachalaiah and West by Remaining portion of same property

Loan Account No: KCE00010N; NPA Date: 03/01/2026; Date of 13 (2) Notice: 18/03/2026; Demand Amount - **Rs. 17,10,474.60p (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Ten Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Four and sixty paise only)** as on **14/01/2026** Borrower: **Mr. Shaik Irshad S A and Mrs. Nargis Irshad**, both borrower and co-borrower residing at No. 44, 5th cross TMC layout, J P Nagar, 1st phase, Bangalore – 560 078, Karnataka; **Description of Schedule of Property: -** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing no. 13, PID No. 47-108-13 situated at Jamerdar Mohammed Ghouse Saheeb lane, Kumbarpet, Bangalore, presently with in the limts BBMP and bounded on the East by Property of Mohammed; West by Property of Mohammed and passage leading to Jamerdar Mohammed ghouse shaeb lane; North by Property of Saifulla and South by Property of Abdul Rehman Measuring East to West: 18ft., North to South: 30 ft., in all measuring 540 sq ft.

Loan Account No: KBR01245N; NPA Date: 04/03/2026; Date of 13 (2) Notice: 20/03/2026; Demand Amount - **Rs. 2,06,43,657.74p** (Rupees Two Crores Six Lakhs Forty Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Seven and Seventy Four paise only) as on **18/03/2026;** Borrower: **M/s. Stone Expert India, Rep. by its Partner Mr. Pramod Garg, Co-Borrowers**: Mr. Ramesh Chandra Agarwal, Mr. Pramod Garg & Mrs. Meena Ramesh Agarwal all are residing at No. 44, 5th cross TMC layout, J P Nagar, 1st phase, Bangalore – 560 078, Karnataka; **Description of Schedule of Property: -** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing BBMP Katha no. 16/8, assigned to flat no. A-171, Four bedroom, PID no. 64-168-16, measuring 2831.95 Square Feet of built up area at 17th floor of the building known as **"Sobha Magnolia"** along with 1016 square feet of undivided share of right, title and interest in the land with a car parking in the basement of the building constructed on the land bearing Municipal No. 53/2-16, (PID no. 64-168-16), measuring 1,99,287 square feet, formed in land bearing Survey No. 53/2A, still earlier bearing Survey No. 53/2, Old No. 53, Sub no. 4, situated at Suddeguntepalya Village, Begur, Hobli, Bangalore south taluk, comprising of a building and bounded on the East by A Channel and portion of survey No. 53 (Now storm water drain); West by Bannerghatta main road (earlier known as Anekal road); North by Property earlier bearing survey No. 53, Sub no. 3 now Road and South by Channel (storm water drain).

We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount of more particularly stated in respective Demand Notices issued, together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereto failing which we shall be at liberty to proceed against the above Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property (ies) under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules not limited to taking possession and selling the secured asset entirely at the risk of the said borrower(s)/co borrower (s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)at your own cost and consequences.

Please note that as per section 13(13) of the SARAFESI Act, all of you are prohibited from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, the aforesaid secured assets without prior written consent of the Bank. Any contravention of the said section by you shall invoke the penal provisions as laid down under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act and / or any other legal provision in this regard.

Please note that as per sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the dues of IBL together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by IBL are tendered to IBL at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by IBL, and no further step shall be taken by IBL for transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 18/04/2026, Place: Bangalore Sd/-, Authorized Officer, For IndusInd Bank Limited

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

Notice Inviting Bid

Bid for Purchase of ACSR Bersimis Conductor (15 kms) under BN-9018002601 (UBN: VPN2627GLOB00177) is invited from interested bidders up to 04:00 PM on 06.05.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state; and **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl** departmental website.

Superintending Engineer
(Civil), Bikaner

Raj.Samwad/C/26/1062 RRVPN/TR-7507/2026

VEER NARMAD SOUTH GUJARAT UNIVERSITY

UDHNA - MAGDALLA ROAD, SURAT.

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UPDATES ON RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR REGULAR TEACHING POSTS

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE NO:

(1) GAD/GIA/T/Emp. Notice/5841/2024, dtd.13/03/2024 & (2) GAD/GIA/T/Emp. Notice/20951/2025, dtd.04/08/2025

It is hereby notified to all concerned that, Candidates who have applied for grant-in-aid teaching positions in various departments of the University are required to visit the University Administrative Building in person, along with original documents and photocopies, to present any grievances related to the report displayed in their login regarding their application, as per the date and time mentioned in their dashboard.

The schedule for this process will also be published from time to time on the website of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (https://www.vnsgu.ac.in). Candidates are advised to regularly check the website as well as log in to the recruitment portal for updates.

No. Gen/Estt./8099/2026 **Sd/-**

Dated: 18-04-2026 **REGISTRAR**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank — Fortune Syndicate

REGIONAL OFFICE,
FLOOR, NO.19, SOUTH END ROAD
BASAVANAGUDI, BENGALURU - 4
Email: recblrro2@canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)]

(For movable/ Immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank** under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a **Demand Notice** dated **12-01-2026** upon the borrower **1) Mrs. Ashwathamma, W/o Late Pappanna,** No 346, Old no. 180, K G Nagar , 8th Cross, Lakshmipura, K G Nagar, Banaglore- 560019, **2) Mr. Adimurthy, S/o Late Pappanna,** No 346, Old no. 180, K G Nagar , 8th Cross, Lakshmipura, K G Nagar, Banaglore- 560019, and **3) Mrs Mangala Gowri , W/o Mr Srinivvas,** No 346, Old no. 180, K G Nagar , 8th Cross, Lakshmipura, K G Nagar, Banaglore- 560019 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 8,30,494.13/- (Rupees Eight lakhs Thirty thousand Four hundred Ninety Four and Paise Thirteen Only)** along with interest from 11.01.2026 and costs etc within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the balance amount, due under the said demand notice, with up to date interest, Notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the entire Mortgaged property/ies described herein below, with all the constructions thereon, in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **18th Day of April Month, 2026.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of **Rs. 8,30,494.13/- (Rupees Eight lakhs Thirty thousand Four hundred Ninety Four and Paise Thirteen Only)** along with further interest from 11.01.2026 and costs.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the movables/immovable Properties:

Description of the Immovable Property

All the piece and parcel of the property bearing New Municipal No. 346, Old No. 180/3, B.D. A. Site No. 180, PID No. 52-40-346, formed out of Sy. No. 1of 72 of Gavipura Extension, Situated at Kittur Rani Chennamma Road, within the Jurisdiction of B.B.M.P., Bengaluru., measuring East to West 10.60mts and North to South 6.10 mts and bounded by: **East:** Site No.172, **West :** Road, **North:** Site No 179, **South:** Site No. 181. **Name of Title Holder Smt Ashwathamma, Sri Adimurthy and Smt Mangala Gowri.**

Date: 18.04.2026 Sd/-

PLACE: Bengaluru Authorised Officer

A three-year-old girl was killed in a stray dog attack at Katnapalli in Sultanabad mandal, Telangana, on Monday. The child, identified as Divya, was playing outside her residence in a brick kiln area when a pack of stray dogs attacked her and dragged her into nearby field

TN CM MK Stalin and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal campaign in Chennai; Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a rally in Tirunelveli| P JAWAHAR & V KARTHIKALAGU

TN will repent if it votes for NDA, says Kejriwal in Chennai

AGENCIES @Chennai

NATIONAL convener of the AAP Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said the people of Tamil Nadu would "repent" if they voted NDA in the state in the April 23 polls, saying the state would meet the same fate as Delhi where the BJP "stopped all the good work" of AAP.

Addressing a massive gathering at a roadshow along with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin here, in support of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance candidates, the former CM of Delhi said Tamil Nadu doesn't want the BJP.

Kejriwal, who addressed from atop a campaign vehicle with Stalin standing beside him, pointed at the huge crowd on either side of the road and said, "The AIADMK has done the biggest crime of bringing the BJP to Tamil Nadu." " A year ago, the people made a mistake by voting for the BJP and now all the good work that we have done in Delhi, has been stopped by the BJP. The schools we started in Delhi, the clinics, free medicine and treatment in hospitals, free electricity and free water have all been stopped by the BJP," he said.

Whether the people voted for the BJP or the AIADMK or NDA made no difference, because all the good work that Stalin has started in Tamil Nadu will be stopped if the NDA won the election, "and you will repent," the top Aam Aadmi Party leader cautioned. "So, I request vote for Stalin saab (sir) and the DMK if you want to sustain the good work. He (Stalin) has done a lot of developmental work. This development should continue. He is one voice and a strong voice, too, against PM Modi in the Centre," he said. Stalin was fighting not only for Tamil Nadu but also for the country. "He defeated the delimitation bill which would have completely destroyed our democracy and he stood against Modi and fought for the people of Tamil Nadu," Kejriwal said.

POLL WALL

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

CASH-FOR-VOTE ALLEGATIONS SURFACE ACROSS TN

COIMBATORE/TENKASI: With just three days left for polling, allegations of cash for votes are flying thick and fast. While a scuffle broke out between AIADMK and DMK over alleged cash distribution by DMK supporters in Coimbatore late on Sunday, a purported video of AIADMK candidate instructing cadres on cash distribution in Tenkasi went viral on Monday. In Ramanathapuram, election flying squad offi-cials arrested three AIADMK funct-ionaries on Monday for distributing cash to voters at Sethidal village in Thiruvadanai. ENS

AIADMK cadres damage a car suspecting that it was carrying cash in Ramanathapuram on Sunday | EXPRESS

Modi went to Israel complying with Trump's diktat: Rahul

AGENCIES @Thoothukudi

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Israel before the war broke out in Iran, complying with what he was told by US President Donald Trump.

Addressing an election rally here, targeting the BJP, Gandhi reiterated his allegation that "PM Modi will jump if Trump asks him to do so". Further, he alleged that before the war in Iran, suddenly Modi was told to go to Israel, and he took a plane, went there and came back. The reason for such behaviour was simple, "Epstein files and Adani," he alleged.

The Union government had rejected references to PM Modi in the latest Jeffrey Epstein case files, describing it as "little more than trashy ruminations by a convicted criminal that deserves to be dismissed with the utmost contempt". Gandhi alleged that US President Donald Trump openly says that PM Modi picks up the phone when he calls and addresses him as, sir and added: "Imagine the Prime Minister of India calling US President Donald Trump, sir." Similarly, PM Modi expects the chief minister of Tamil Nadu to be submissive to him and address him as "sir". However, CM Stalin will never address Modi as sir. So PM Modi wishes to have an AIADMK CM in Tamil Nadu so that he would pick up the phone and say, "Yes sir, what can I do for you?" The BJP wants to have a government in Tamil Nadu that they can fully control, a chief minister who does exactly what they say.

Rahul said, "No matter what dream they have, they will never ever control people or the government of Tamil Nadu, and we will never allow the BJP to have a government they can control in the state."

Firecracker unit blast: Toll hits 25, HC seeks TN's reply on relief

HARINI M @ Virudhunagar

ON Sunday evening, the Government Medical College Hospital (GMCH) in Virudhunagar witnessed a steady stream of ambulances arriving at the mortuary, each carrying the charred remains of workers killed in the Kattanarpatti cracker unit explosion.

Family members had already gathered at the hospital. As ambulances arrived, many peered through the windows, attempting to identify their loved ones even before the doors were opened. However, most bodies were burnt beyond recognition, leaving families distraught. "Athu yarunu therlayae (can't recognise the person)," lamented the daughter of one of the victims, breaking down. The bodies were moved into the mortuary one after another, and relatives were called in individually for identification.

The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court on Monday orally instructed the government counsels to get instructions from state authorities on the compensation proposed to be paid to the victims of the cracker unit blast in Kattanarpatti village in Virudhunagar on Sunday. A bench of justices N Sathish Kumar and M Jothiraman raised the question following a request made by a counsel, R Karunanidhi, asking the court to take suo motu cognisance of the incident.

A patient undergoing treatment at the Virudhunagar GMCH

ODISHA SIR

9.8 lakh voters removed, wrongful deletions alleged

SUDARSAN MAHARANA @ Bhubaneswar

AHEAD of the crucial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Odisha, a whopping 9.8 lakh names have been deleted during the ongoing mapping exercise, drawing serious allegation of wrongful removals. The development has also led the chief electoral officer (CEO), Odisha, RS Gopalan, to put on hold the scrutiny of around two lakh Form-7 applications received after April 2, 2026, which seek deletion or raise objections to entries in the rolls.

The 9.8 lakh deletions have been carried out by electoral registration officers since the commencement of the mapping process. With Odisha having about 3.40 crore electors as per the 2025 summary revision, including 1.72 crore men, 1.68 crore women and 3,434 transgender people, the deletions account for roughly 2.88% of the electorate.

The exercise has triggered complaints of wrongful removal of voters from the rolls. In a recent letter to EROs, additional chief electoral officer Sushanta Kumar Mishra underlined that a substantial number of complaints have been received against wrongful deletions.

EXPRESS READ

Police flag ₹20-cr scam linked to Sabari ritual

KOCHI: Kerala police flagged serious irregularities linked to the 'neyy thenga' ritual at the Sabarimala temple, with contractors suspected of illegally diverting the ghee-filled coconuts, meant to be consigned to the sacred 'aazhi' (fire pit), to private godowns. The 'illicit trade' is estimated to have generated up to Rs 50 lakh a day, potentially touching Rs 20 crore during the last season, despite contracts permitting only the collection of coconuts broken at designated areas on the temple premises. A report of the intelligence wing seeking a detailed investigation has been submitted and the matter has reached officials of the Travancore Devaswom Board, including the Sabarimala special commissioner and the executive magistrate, said a source. A Bengaluru-based company secured the annual contract to collect the coconut offerings for an amount of Rs 7.61 crore, the source said. ENS

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that my client has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding Dated 12.01.2024 for the purchase of Apartment bearing No. 301 on the Third Floor in Block A of the residential complex in "URBANA BELVEDERE" with exclusive right to use of 2 covered Car Parking space along with 1148 sq ft of UDS.The general public is hereby warned against any dealings or transactions with the owners regarding this property. Any such transactions shall not be binding upon my client and are subject to my client's prior rights under the aforementioned agreement.Any person having a claim against this property—whether by sale, agreement, inheritance, mortgage, or otherwise—is required to notify the undersigned in writing with supporting documentary evidence within 15 days of this notice. Failure to do so will result in any such claims being deemed waived or abandoned and not binding upon my client.

Tahura Anzar, Advocate
281, 17th F Main, 3rd Cross, KHB Colony, Koramangala 5th Block, Bengaluru- 560 095
Mob: +91- 8095371495

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **B S PRAKASH,** S/o Late B N Sethuraman, Aged About 71 Years, Residing at #504, 3rd A main, 6th Sector, HSR Layout, Opposite to BBMP Park, Bangalore. who is the present owner of below mentioned property and he was having Original Sale Deed executed by BDA in Favour of B S PRAKASH as per Book No.1- Samputa 133 - Pages 6-9-year 2000/01. Document Number 6626 dated 06.03.2001.- Absolute Sale deed by BDA Head office, Registered at Additional Sub Registrar, Bangalore 560020. in respect of property #504, 3rd A main, 6th Sector, HSR Layout, Opposite to BBMP Park, Bangalore and the aforesaid Original Documents have been lost/misplaced and kept in cupboard of my client house on 18.04.2026 my client has made best efforts in tracing the same, but efforts were in vain, Further he lodged a police e-Lost complaint No.2162194/2026 (Serial No. 2162194) reported on this dated 18-04-2026, if anyone found the aforesaid original document, kindly contact within 15 days from the date this publication at the office address given below.

Ravish
Advocate & Solicitor,
R & R associates
57/1, 2nd Floor, Cottonpete Main Road, GT Road, Bangalore - 560053
Mob : 90194226380
Email : rrlegal2012@gmail.com

BEFORE THE IV ADDL DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION AT BENGALURU
CC NO. 347/2024

BETWEEN
Sri. KAPIL BHARTI ...COMPLAINANT
AND
CONNAISSANCE ASSET SHOPPE (I) PVT. LTD and ORS ...OPPOSITE PARITES

TO:
3. Atlur Satyanarayana Setty Muralidhar Director, Connaissance Asset Shoppe (I) Pvt. Ltd., No. 52/53, Anam Plaza, 8th F Main Road, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011.
4. Kiran Kumar Kashipathi Mylanalinga Setty Director, Connaissance Asset Shoppe (I) Pvt.Ltd., No. 52/53, Anam Plaza, 8th F Main Road, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011.
5. Dodda Kashi Srinivasa Murthy Director, Connaissance Asset Shoppe (I) Pvt.Ltd., No. 52/53, Anam Plaza, 8th F Main Road, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011.

NOTICE

WHEREAS, your appearance is required in response to the consumer complaint filed against you by the above-named Complainant. Wherein you are arrayed as Opposite Parties Nos. 3, 4, and 5, namely Mr Althur Sathyanaryana Setty Muralidhar, Mr Kiran Kumar Kashipathi Mylanalinga Setty, and Mr Dodda Kashi Srinivasa Murthy, in your capacity as Directors of Connaissance Asset Shoppe (I) Pvt. Ltd. Wherein the Complainant has alleged unfair trade practices and deficiency in services on the part of the Opposite Parties, and has sought of direction for payment of Rs. 4,50,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Fifty Thousand only), along with other reliefs as set out in the complaint.

Therefore, you are therefore directed to file your objections in accordance with the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, on or before 29.04.2026 at 10:30 AM before this Commission. Failure to appear or take any steps to represent your case as required will result in the complaint being heard and decided ex-parte in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the District Commission on this day **10.04.2026.**

BY THE ODRER OF THE COMMISSION
SD/-
Asst. Registrar Cum
Asst. Administrative Officer
IV Addl. District Consumer
Disputes Redressal Commission

Address for Service
Rajagopal & Menon Advocates
#3022, High Point 3, No. 45/1, Palace Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Ph: 080-41285986, M: 9886310505.
E: vikram@rajagopalmenon.in

BEFORE THE IV ADDL DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION AT BENGALURU
CC NO. 346/2024

BETWEEN
Sri. KAPIL BHARTI ...COMPLAINANT
AND
CONNAISSANCE ASSET SHOPPE (I) PVT. LTD and ORS ...OPPOSITE PARITES

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BY THE ODRER OF THE COMMISSION
SD/-
Asst. Registrar Cum
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Ph: 080-41285986, M: 9886310505.
E: vikram@rajagopalmenon.in

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal only)
No.: SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/F-393(9)/26-27/211-15 Date: 18.04.2026

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Cir-South/EE(O)/AEE-2/JE-1/25-26/EPR-26 Dated: 26.03.2026** for **"Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of Copper Control cable of sizes 4Cx4 sq.mm and 2Cx2.5 sq.mm, required at various sub-stations in Tr.(Op) Circle-South, KPTCL Bengaluru conforming to Technical Specifications. F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading"**

The Bids will be received through E-procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **21.04.2026.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Elec.,),
Transmission (Operations) Circle-South , KPTCL,
Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank limited, 1st Floor, West Wing, DSMG, Mythri Centre, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. G Manju (Borrower) Sandhya (Co-Borrower) Loan Number. LBMYS00006004216 LBMYS00006055940	As Described In The Loan Document / Property Document Covering All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Sas No. 962/2446/10, Pid No.10-504- 63, Situated At Ward No. 12, Housing Board Colony, H.D.Kote, Mysore District, Measuring East To West 11.27 Meter And North To South 18.74 Meter In Total Measuring 211.40 (As Per Form-3(Rule 20), Town Municipal Council, H.D.Kote, Mysore District) And The Property Is Bounded on The; Bounded By : North: House Belongs To R.Ramaiah; South: House Belongs To R.P.Ramesh. East:road West: Property Belongs To Basava Bhavana;	Rs. 50,44,198/- (As on April 16, 2026)	Rs. 41,00,000/- / Rs. 4,10,000/-	May 07, 2026 From 11:00 AM To 2:00 PM	May 12, 2026 From 10:00 AM To 11:00 AM

The online auction will be conducted on the website (URL Link-https:assets.matexauctions.com) of our auction agency M/s Matex Technologies Limited. The Mortgagors/ Noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by May 11, 2026, before 04:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.

The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank limited, 1st Floor, West Wing, DSMG, Mythri Centre, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 on or before May 11, 2026 before 05:00 PM Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before May 11, 2026 before 05:00 PM. along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/ are unable to submit his/ her/ their offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank limited, 1st Floor, West Wing, DSMG, Mythri Centre, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 on or May 11, 2026 before 05:00 PM Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of 'ICICI Bank Limited' payable at "Bangalore.".

For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 7304918084.

Please note that Marketing Agency 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited, 2. Augeo Assets Management Private Limited 3. Matex Net Pvt. Ltd. 4. Finvin Estate Deal Technologies Pvt Ltd 5. Girnarsoft Pvt Ltd 6. Hecta Prop Tech Pvt Ltd 7. Arca Emart Pvt Ltd 8. Novel Asset Service Pvt Ltd 9. Nobroker Technologies Solutions Pvt Ltd., have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date : April 21, 2026
Place: Bangalore & Mysore

Authorized Officer,
ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that my client **Ms. Deepthi Narayanaswamy,** D/o. K. B. Narayanaswamy, aged about 35 years, residing at No.126, 3rd 1st Main, Ramaiah Layout, Kammanahalli, Bengaluru – 560084. Represented by her Attorney Holder - **Mr. K. B. Narayanaswamy**, S/o. K Byrappa is proposing to purchase Site No.191 situated in K. Narayanapura Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East, more fully described in the Schedule hereunder, from **Mr. P C Balaji,** S/o. P A Chellappa, Aged about 63 years and Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Balaji, W/o. P C Balaji, Aged about 58 years, both are residing at No. 5-R, WW FERN Hill Garden, HSR 4th Sector, Bengaluru-560 034.

The Vendor is the original owner of the said Site, having been purchased the same from Mr. Errol Fernandes and Mr. R Nagaraj and absolute owner thereof by virtue of a Registered Sale Deed dated 22.03.2003, registered on 25.03.2003, bearing document No. **BNG(U)KRP/20336/2002-03,** Registered at the office of the Sub-registrar, Krishnarajapura. Any person or persons having any claim, right, title, interest, lien, charge, mortgage, lease, tenancy, inheritance, litigation, or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever over the said property are hereby called upon to make known the same in writing, along with supporting documents, to the undersigned within **07 (Seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice.

Failing which, it shall be presumed that there are no claims or objections whatsoever against the said property, and my client shall proceed with the purchase, and any such claims raised thereafter shall not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property being the residential **Site No. 191** measuring an area of 2400 Sq Ft, bearing Khata No. **639/387/191, EPID No. 8257655033,** formed in the **Survey No. 38 and 23/4,** converted for residential purposes vide Official Memorandum No: **BDS.ALN.SR(EAST) 51/2002-2003** dated 03-09-2002, by The Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, in the Layout called **"FERNS RESIDENCY"** situated at **K. Narayanapura Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk** and bounded as follows:

East by : Site No. 186 **West by :** Private property
North by : Plot No. 190 **South by :** 192

Sd/- Nishanth A.V, Advocate
No.33, First Floor North Park Road, Kumara Park East Bengaluru - 560001
Email: nishanthav@gmail.com
Mobile: +91 99001 12555

VARASHAKTI Housing Finance Pvt Ltd

Registered Office: at No. 33, Old No.14, 48th Street, 9th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai – 600083 **Head Office:** at Sai Sadhan, T.S. No.125 (North Phase), SIDCO Thiruvika Industrial Estate, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai – 600 032. **Branch Office:** First floor, Sri Krishna Complex, Madhugiri Main Road, Antharasanahalli, Tumkur - 572 106.

Rule 8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of **Varashakti Housing Finance PVT LTD**, under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued **Demand Notice dated 21.01.2026,** calling upon the Borrowers, Mortgagors, Co-applicants, Guarantors & Consentor:- **1. Mrs. Nalina G** W/o. Ranganatha, **2. Mr. R Ranganatha** S/o. Rangapa both R/at Solur Road, Navagrama, 5th Block, Kuduruu, Ramnagava, Karnataka - 561101 to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice amounting to **Rs.4,71,611.64 (Rupees Four Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Six Hundred Eleven and Sixty Four paise only)** as on **07.01.2026** within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers, Mortgagors, Co-applicants , Guarantors & Consentors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, Mortgagors, Co-applicants, Guarantors & Consentors and the public in general that the undersigned has **taken** possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred to them under Sub-Section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule **8 & 9** of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules,2002 on this the **18th Day of April, 2026.**

The Borrowers, Mortgagors, Co-applicants, Guarantors & Consentors having in particulars and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Varashakti Housing Finance PVT LTD,** for an amount Total – **Rs.4,90,052.00 (Rupees Four Lakhs Ninety Thousand Fifty Two Only) as on 13.04.2026** with further interest, cost, other charges and expenses thereon.

The Borrower/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Schedule Property: All That Piece And Parcel Of Ramanagara Registration Magadisub Registrar Office, KUDUR Village KUDUR Grama Panchayithi MAGADI Tq RAMANAGARA District Karantaka-561101 District In Bearing Property No 32, E Swathu No.152900301803602562 Measuring East- West 9.144mtrs, North-South 9.144mtrs, Totallymeasuring 83.61Sq.Mtrs.Residential Building Thereon. **Bounded By:** East: Savithramma Property, West: Road, North: Neelamma Property, South: Jayamma Property.

Place: Ramanagara
Date: 18/04/2026

For Varashakti Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd.
Sd/- Authorised Officer

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

MAHAREL

FOR

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY, PREPARATION OF TECHNICAL BID SPECIFICATION, REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DETAILED DESIGN ENGINEERING & PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY FOR GREEN HYDROGEN & GREEN AMMONIA PLANT AT URAN, DISTRICT- RAIGAD, MAHARASHTRA.

(TO BE SUBMITTED DULY FILLED IN AND DIGITALLY SIGNED) Tender No. MREL/2026-27/GH2 Consultant/T02

Date of issuance of invitation: **21.04.2026**

The Mahagenco Renewable Energy Ltd. (MahaGenco REL), Mumbai, India invites bids from eligible bidders for Consultancy Services for pre-feasibility study, preparation of technical bid specification, review & approval of detailed design engineering & project management consultancy for Green Hydrogen & Green Ammonia plant at Uran, District Raigad, Maharashtra.

Bid document shall be available for download on website **https://www.bharat-electronictender.com** after acceptance tender document fee (i.e Rs. 25,000/- plus GST @18%) i.e total Rs.29,500/- (Twenty-nine thousand five hundred only)

1	Start Date of Acceptance of Tender Fee by MahaGenco REL and Download of Tender Document.	21.04.2026, 12:00 Hrs.
2	Last Date of Acceptance of Queries / Comments from Bidders	05.05.2026, 18:00 Hrs.
3	Pre-Bid Meeting	06.05.2026, 11:30 Hrs.
4	Last Date of Acceptance of Tender Fee by MahaGenco REL and Download of Tender Document	18.05.2026, 18:00 Hrs.
5	Last Date for Submission of online Bid (Techno-Commercial and Price Bids) along with EMD	19.05.2026, 14:00 Hrs.
6	Last Date for physical Submission of Techno-Commercial bid (Envelope–1)	20.05.2026, 18:00 Hrs.
7	Opening of Techno-Commercial Bids	21.05.2026, 11:00 Hrs.
8	Opening of Price Bid of Qualified Bidders	Will be intimated by mail

MahaGenco REL reserves the right to cancel / withdraw this Invitation for Bids without assigning any reason for such decision. For more details of Notice for Invitation of Tender (NIT), please visit to Bharat portal **https://www.bharat-electronictender.com** as well as MAHAGENCO's official website **https://www.mahagenco.in** For further information, kindly Contact DGM (Commercial & Contracts) MahaGenco REL, E-mail ID - *dgmcomcon@mrel.in* (Mobile no- +91 86522 00322). Further details / any amendment / corrigendum / updates will be published only on **https://www.bharat-electronictender.com** only.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager
Mahagenco Renewable Energy Ltd.

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

EDITORIAL

"The sign of our times is that the dignity of human personality has no place: the age is impersonal, as are its laws" — Sadegh Hedayat

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

INCENTIVISE COMPLIANCE, DIVERSIFY INDUSTRIES IN TN FIREWORKS HUB

IN the fireworks hub of Virudhunagar and Sivakasi in southern Tamil Nadu, the daily life of a cracker worker is a trial by fire. Danger turned into tragedy on Sunday when a massive explosion at Vanaja Fireworks in Kattanarpatti claimed the lives of 25 workers. The devastation worsened during rescue efforts when a secondary blast injured 26 more—among them workers, first responders, fire department personnel and journalists, including a *TNIE* photographer.

The incident's occurrence on a holiday, when workers were mobilised illegally, illustrated the systemic safety lapses in the sector. In the arid belt of Virudhunagar, Sattur and Sivakasi, lack of agricultural viability and decades of industrial neglect have left workers with few choices. Bereft of livelihood options, lakhs of workers put their lives on the line for a paltry daily pay of ₹600-700. The hot and dry climate of the region increases the volatility of chemicals. Several units hire seasonal, unskilled workers who are unaware of the risks or emergency protocols. Packing workrooms with workers many times more than the safe capacity increases the risk of casualties. While the authorities continue to investigate the cause of Sunday's explosion, past investigations into such accidents show overcrowded workrooms have often been one of the main reasons for high death rates. Official data shows that between 2021 and 2025, 169 people had died and 142 others were injured in cracker-related accidents in the region, including the 2021 Achankulam blast that left 27 dead.

Despite supporting 7-8 lakh jobs and generating ₹5,000-6,000 crore in annual revenue, the government's approach to worker safety and organised growth in the region has been far from adequate. With over 1,100 licensed units operating alongside hundreds of illegal ones, the region faces a severe safety crisis due to systemic enforcement failures. Government intervention is vital to preventing the region from becoming a death-trap for vulnerable workers. Promoting alternative industries is needed to give people options others than high-risk roles. Action must be taken on a mission mode to establish safe, compliant industrial parks for firework manufacturing. The existing regulations must be strictly enforced and tax incentives should be offered to encourage compliance. Unless policymakers develop innovative solutions for a safe and sustainable industry, violations will persist and workers will continue to pay with their lives.

U.S. CLARITY ESSENTIAL FOR PEACE IN WEST ASIA

DRAMA on the high seas continued to dominate geopolitics over the weekend as hopes of a reopening of the Hormuz Strait and an extended ceasefire in West Asia were belied. Even as Donald Trump indicated that his negotiation team was ready to head to Islamabad for a second round of talks, his administration announced it had seized an Iranian-flagged cargo ship that had attempted to slip through the US blockade. Gunboat diplomacy came in the way of peace again, as Iran indicated it would not join the talks less than 48 hours before the end of the two-week ceasefire. However, Tehran kept the door to a negotiated solution open on Monday, with President Masoud Pezeshkian stressing the importance of diplomacy despite deep distrust of Washington's motives.

To be effective, diplomacy needs clear objectives, and the US has not helped the cause by shifting goalposts. The reasons proffered for the US-Israel attacks, launched merely two days after the closure of "substantive" negotiations in Geneva, have ranged from pre-emptive action and degrading nuclear and missile capabilities to regime change, securing Iran's resources, and responding to regional aggression. Behind that blur, the US and Israel have seemed insincere about a just resolution. In contrast, Trump summarily announced Israel's ceasefire with Lebanon last week and stated that further strikes were "prohibited". That was the condition Iran cited to briefly reopen Hormuz, before Trump insisted on continuing the naval blockade. To give diplomacy a chance, the US has to align its declared intent with action and not strengthen its economic chokehold on a nation it purportedly wants to negotiate with.

Trump's actions are harming his own long-held goals of keeping inflation low at home and protecting the US dollar's dominance abroad. His energy secretary indicated on Sunday that petrol prices would likely remain higher for longer than what the treasury secretary had suggested just days earlier. Meanwhile, even as it negotiates a currency swap with the US Treasury, the UAE central bank governor warned that his country might have to resort to more yuan-denominated trade—a move that would weaken the dollar's global power.

It is now clearer what Iran wants. The crucial known unknown is the cue the commander of the most powerful armed forces will take to move genuinely towards de-escalation. Meanwhile, a nervous world holds its breath as the spectre of a longer war refuses to go away.

QUICK TAKE

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

A Chinese carmaker has made other auto companies sit up and take note of a patent it has been granted. Chongqing-based Seres has designed an in-vehicle toilet that slides under a passenger's seat to help answer nature's calls while on the road. Buses plying long distances often feature toilets. A special version of a Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith in the 1950s was also pictured with a toilet fitted under a seat. But this is the first design of its sort. Imagine the usefulness of such a facility in a country like India—notorious for lacking clean public toilets, especially for women. More than the urge to transform long hauls, perhaps the invention reflects the need to stand out in China's crowded EV market.

The 131st amendment was imperfect. But the constitutional mechanisms on seat allocation and women's reservation that will now automatically unfold will not help states that checked population rise

CONSTITUTIONAL CLOCKS THAT JUST STARTED TICKING

K B S SIDHU
Retired IAS officer and a former Special Chief Secretary, Punjab

SOURAV ROY

THE failure of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill to garner the requisite two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha, and the consequential withdrawal of the Delimitation Bill and Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, are being celebrated in some quarters as a victory for fairer federalism. It is nothing of the sort. On careful constitutional reading, it is the beginning of a process far more disruptive than the passage of the Bills would have been. The public debate has been charged with rhetoric. What will actually unfold has found little mention.

Some constitutional history is essential. The current Lok Sabha seat allocation—39 for Tamil Nadu, 20 for Kerala, 28 for Karnataka, 25 each for Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, 80 for Uttar Pradesh—is derived from the 1971 census. The Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976 froze the allocation of Lok Sabha seats on the basis of 1971 population figures. The Constitution (84th Amendment) Act, 2001 extended that freeze—keeping every state's proportional share as it was in 1971—until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 are published. The Kuldip Singh Delimitation Commission, constituted in 2002, worked entirely within this mandate. It redrew the internal boundaries of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha constituencies using 2001 census figures, but was constitutionally prohibited from altering a state's seat total.

That freeze is now imminently approaching its constitutionally mandated expiry. It lifts automatically—without any further parliamentary action, without any constitutional amendment—upon the publication of the relevant figures for the first census taken after 2026. Once the figures of the ongoing census are published—realistically, between 2029 and 2031—the freeze expires of its own terms under Article 82. The Delimitation Commission then constituted will work on pure population proportionality under the unamended Article 81(2)(a). Every state's Lok Sabha allocation will reflect its share of the national population as recorded in the post-2026 census.

This is where the arithmetic becomes uncomfortable. Between 1971 and the present, the demographic divergence between the north and the south has been profound. States that invested in family planning and human development—Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana—controlled their population growth. States that did not—UP, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan—grew substantially faster. Under strict population proportionality, the political consequence is a structural shift in representation to the north that no political protest can reverse without a constitutional amendment. To illustrate: on current population estimates, one Lok Sabha seat in UP represents approximately 30 lakh people; in Tamil Nadu, approximately 20 to 21 lakh; in Kerala, approximately 19 lakh. Under post-2026 proportionality, that differential disappears and, with it, the south's representational advantage.

Now consider what the 131st Amendment Bill, had it passed, would have delivered. It locked in the 2011 census—not the post-2026 one—as the operative basis for delimitation through a specific definitional mechanism in the Delimitation Bill, 2026. On 2011 figures, Tamil Nadu would have received approximately 57 Lok Sabha seats, an increase of 18 from its current 39. Kerala would have gone from 20 to approximately 29 and Karnataka from 28 to approximately 41. Not one southern state would have lost a single seat. Their proportional share would have declined negligibly as the overall House expanded, but their absolute representation would have grown substantially. Additionally, a constitutional provision prescribing minimum and maximum seat ranges for every state could have given the southern states a guaranteed floor written into the Constitution itself, immune to future census arithmetic.

That protection is now not in place. The Bills were defeated and withdrawn. When the new census figures are published and the Article 82 freeze lifts automatically, the Delimitation Commission will work on population proportionality with no such protection. Tamil Nadu may potentially see its seat count fall for the first time since independence, as the post-2026 figures would reflect 55 years of differential demographic growth. That is the scenario the defeated Bill was designed to prevent. The opposition discarded the shield and will now face the sword.

The deeper irony lies in the Statutory Order 1922(E) issued by the ministry of law and justice on the evening of April 16—the same day the Bills were tabled—bringing the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023 into force. Women's reservation is now a live, irrevocable constitutional right from that date. The original Article 334A, now operative, requires that women's reservation be activated only after delimitation on the basis of the first census taken after April 16, 2026. When that census is conducted and the Article 82 freeze lifts, both processes—seat reallocation and women's reservation—will be triggered together on post-2026 population figures, with no constitutional protection for the slow-growth states in place. The notification that was meant to be a complement to the Bills has instead become the trigger for the very outcome the Bills were designed to manage.

The 131st Amendment Bill was, to borrow a phrase, inimitable and illimitable—taking care of the imminently lapsing temporal limitation of Article 82, while admittedly carrying limitations of its own. The absence of a constitutional state-wise floor to seat numbers, inadequate prior political communication, failure to translate the Prime Minister's parliamentary assurances into constitutional text—these were real shortcomings. But they were correctable and the opportunity to do so has been lost for now.

There is still a window. A revised constitutional amendment incorporating minimum seat guarantees for every state can and should be reintroduced before the post-2026 census figures are published. That is the only window in which southern states can secure constitutional protection before the freeze lifts and raw proportionality takes over. The window is open for now, but it will not remain so indefinitely. The question for the political leadership is whether it will use that window wisely, or spend it celebrating a pyrrhic victory whose consequences are already written in the Constitution of India.

(Views are personal)

SEOUL-SEARCHING IN NEW SECTORS

CHANDRAJIT BANERJEE
Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry

AMID the changing global economic systems, the India-South Korea partnership is significant for its resilience, adaptability and forward-looking strategy. Initially centred on trade, the relationship now embraces technology, manufacturing, innovation and robust people-to-people ties.

On Monday, India and South Korea reaffirmed their commitment to a strong partnership and expressed clear intentions for further growth in ties. Bilateral trade is approaching $27 billion, which the two countries now aim to take to $50 billion by 2030. This multifaceted relationship echoes the readiness of both nations to invest in long-term, sustainable collaboration that extends beyond economic gains to touch cultural and social engagement.

A significant aspect of this partnership is the strong presence of Korean businesses in India. Korean investments have transformed sectors such as automobiles, electronics and advanced manufacturing, supporting industrial growth, job creation, supply chain improvements and technological advancement. Korean electronics brands succeeded in India not just because of good products, but because they understood local needs, invested for the long term, priced their products smartly and built strong brands. Adapting to Indian consumers and focusing on trust and service helped Korean companies act more like local companies rather than foreign sellers. At the same time, Indian companies are seeking opportunities in South Korea, particularly in IT services, pharmaceuticals and emerging technologies.

The next phase of partnership between India and South Korea should prioritise inclusivity and diversity. While large companies have led the journey of economic partnership between India and South Korea so far, future progress depends on greater involvement from small and medium enterprises (SMEs). As the backbone of both economies, increased SME participation in trade and investment is essential for sustainable, broad-based growth of cooperation.

A key driver for Korean SMEs to enter the Indian market would be facilitation with respect to regulations, business practices and market structures. Addressing these critical factors requires structured support from both governments and industries. Industry associations can provide guidance, foster partnerships and build confidence for businesses seeking to expand in India.

Establishing dedicated platforms such as an India-Korea SME Dialogue Forum would facilitate regular meetings, knowledge sharing and problem-solving, making collaboration easier. Raising awareness of opportunities, regulations and incentives in India is also important. Resources like Korean-language business guides, explainer videos and case studies can help bridge the gaps in information. Re-negotiating and updating the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) has emerged as a key priority for Indian exports to have a deeper penetration in South Korean markets. A modernised CEPA can catalyse and improve market access, and open up new avenues for trade and investment between India and South Korea. To fully realise its advantages, businesses in both countries need to make greater use of the agreement. Beyond traditional sectors, the India-South Korea partnership holds significant potential in strategic areas such as semiconductors, electric vehicles, batteries, shipbuilding, clean energy and critical minerals. Collaboration in these fields will benefit both economies and strengthen global supply chains.

X.COM

To achieve the ambitious bilateral goals with Seoul reaffirmed in Delhi, the ties must extend to smaller businesses that form the backbone of both economies. For stronger people-to-people links, internships, exchange visits and joint research can foster understanding and develop future leaders dedicated to the partnership

Strengthening diverse supply chains is increasingly important, as recent global disruptions have highlighted the risks of regional concentration. With robust industries and advanced technology, India and South Korea are well-positioned to collaborate on establishing resilient, future-ready supply chains.

The human dimension of this partnership is equally important. Strong connections, particularly among young professionals and entrepreneurs, will sustain the relationship over time. Initiatives such as internships, exchange visits and joint research can foster understanding and develop future leaders dedicated to the partnership.

At this pivotal moment when there are major re-alignments happening in the global economy and the fine line between geoeconomics and geopolitics has blurred, the India-Korea partnership is entering a new phase characterised by ambition, innovation and inclusion. Built on trust, shared values and economic strengths, the relationship should now advance through clear focus and effective collaboration.

In conclusion, the India-South Korea partnership illustrates how countries with shared goals and complementary strengths can work together for mutual benefit and global impact. By addressing challenges, fostering innovation and prioritising inclusive growth, both nations are ready to explore new possibilities across sectors—from traditional industries to cutting-edge technologies.

Unrelenting collaboration, greater institutional ties and a strong focus on people-to-people connections will ensure that Korea-India partnership not only remains resilient but also continues to prosper and set new models for international cooperation in the years ahead.

(Views are personal)
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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Unfolding impact

Ref: *Q4 results stay muted* (Apr 20). The concern is well-founded. Geopolitical disruptions rarely reflect immediately in quarterly numbers; the lagged effects are what unsettle markets. Indian corporates would do well to build supply chain resilience now rather than wait for the damage to reflect in balance sheets.
Abbharna Barathi, Chennai

Parliament flop

Ref: *Too rushed to reform* (Apr 20).
The fact that a special session of Parliament was convened is a testament to the criticality of these bills. But the way it was handled, with no consensus-building initiative undertaken, tells us that the Centre was not serious enough. It was only looking to score political points either way.
Bal Govind, Noida

Algorithm mandate

Ref: *Polls go bot* (Apr 20). The rise of chatbots in electoral contexts exposes a troubling gap between regulation and reality. Technology's reach demands sharper accountability, lest democracy be reshaped by algorithms rather than informed citizen choice.
Babu Crishna, Bengaluru

Shankara's teachings

Ref: *Philosophy of oneness* (Apr 20). Adi Shankara's teachings can't be practised in their fullness in this hectic era, but to practise love for all is only a simple undertaking. Shankara never advised mankind to carry out harsh penances. The writer puts it all in a nutshell with subtlety.
Sanath Kumar T S, Thrissur

Preventable tragedies

Ref: *Explosion at Tamil Nadu firecracker unit* (Apr 20). The devastating blasts reveal how fragile safety remains in fireworks manufacturing. Workers and rescuers paid with their lives for systemic neglect. Unless strict regulation and accountability are enforced, such tragedies will continue to scar communities and erode trust in governance.
K Chidanand Kumar, email

Vance speculations

Ref: *Trump sends team to Pak* (Apr 20).
A curious myth continues to shadow J D Vance as he heads again to Islamabad. Calls to replace him reflect anxiety, not logic—an attempt to impose meaning on chance events. As per some, 'why not give a try replacing Vance if it can diffuse tension and save many lives?'
R S Narula, Patiala

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**
Published by **N Gopalan** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 62, No. 94 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Mallikarjun Kharge @kharge
People from RSS-BJP were conspiring behind the scenes for Delimitation. It affects those seats where you people have empowered the opposition.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra @priyankagandhi
The news of the deaths of several people due to a passenger bus falling into a deep gorge in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir, is extremely heartbreaking.

Amit Shah @AmitShah
To protect our youth from the scourge of drugs, the Modi govt is ruthlessly demolishing drug cartels and is also ensuring their conviction.

Says urgent need to tackle trial delays ● Calls data from all states ● Directs advocates general to give detail of undertrials

SC seeks spl courts for UAPA, NDPS cases

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday suggested that keeping in view of delays in cases under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, there was an urgent need to set up exclusive special courts to deal with them.

The top court was concerned about prolonged trials and long undertrial incarceration of accused persons in these matters, which led it to suggest the creation of special courts to expeditiously handle UAPA and NDPS cases. Noting that delays raise serious concerns under Article 21, a two-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi observed that while allegations may be grave, "there are questions of liberty; these issues do arise before us."

The court requested the presence of all State Advocate Generals to assist in finalising a framework and fixed a further hearing for May 11, 2026.

The court was compelled to make these suggestions after being told that several accused have remained in custody for years due to the slow pace of trials. It felt that the absence of dedicated courts causes fragmentation, as courts handle multiple categories of cases, slowing proceedings.

The bench was hearing a plea seeking the creation of special exclusive courts for NDPS, UAPA and related matters involving prolonged trials and undertrial incarceration.

For effective functioning, the court suggested to the Centre that "if your funding scheme addresses UAPA, it can have a beneficial impact irrespective of whether NIA or the State prosecutes." It also stressed that special courts must function exclusively to deal with such cases. "...how to ensure they are able to take up only exclusive cases?...Once a sessions trial would commence, it would continue on a day-to-day basis unless concluded," it said.

The court said these courts should be within the same judicial complex for ease of access. On infrastructure, it referred to a Union scheme providing ₹1 crore as non-recurring and ₹1 crore as recurring expenditure per court, including the staff.

The bench highlighted the importance of appointing experienced judicial officers and dedicated prosecutors.

ALSO IN TOP COURT

Umar Khalid's review plea for bail rejected

The Supreme Court on Monday rejected student activist Umar Khalid's review petition against the top court's January 01, 2026, order, denying bail in the 2020 Delhi riots conspiracy case. "Having gone through the review petition [of Umar Khalid] and the documents on record, we do not find any valid ground to review the judgment dated January 1, 2026," the court said.

CJI: Shocked at digital arrests of educated

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Monday said it was shocking that well-educated people were getting duped in cases of digital arrests. The CJI along with Justice Joymalya Bagchi, flagged the recent case of an old woman who was duped of her entire retirement benefits in one of such cases.

'National son' plea for Netaji junked

The SC on Monday in its order dismissed a PIL seeking to declare Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose a "National Son" and to credit the Azad Hind Fauj for India's independence. It slammed the petitioner Pinakpani Mohanty, after observing that he is "incorrigible". The court rebuked him for wasting court's time.

'Will call for report from HC CJ in Bengal SIR case'

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday said it would seek a report from the chief justice of the Calcutta High Court today itself after petitioners alleged that the appellate tribunals set up for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in Bengal were "not functioning", as per the court's earlier orders.

Senior advocate Devadatt Kamat, appearing for some petitioners, mentioned to a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi that the appellate tribunals are not functioning. "This is the West Bengal SIR matter. The appellate tribunals are not functioning. Lawyers are not being allowed. They are only taking internet and computer-based applications," Kamat said.

Hearing a particular plea of a woman, excluded from the electoral roll after the SIR exercise, the Supreme Court requested an appellate tribunal constituted in West Bengal to give an out-of-turn hearing to her.

The court passed these directions—as a special case—after Shadan Farasat, senior lawyer for the woman petitioner, told the SC that she possesses a passport and was also part of the 2002 roll and has been voting ever since. The senior lawyer submitted that the petitioner was seeking limited relief of an out-of-turn hearing, as the list will close on April 27.

In another development in the same SIR case, the SC refused to entertain an oral plea made against the addition of nearly 7 lakh new voters in West Bengal using Form 6 after the SIR. Making an oral mention before the CJI bench, senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, appearing for the petitioners challenging the WB SIR process, referred to press reports regarding the addition of new voters by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

She contended that the ECI's action was in violation of the Supreme Court's April 13 order, which allowed the addition of voters only if their appeals against exclusions were allowed by appellate tribunals. She claimed that the addition of voters through Form 6 was not permissible after the cut-off date in terms of the April 13 order. The CJI told Guruswamy that the bench cannot entertain a matter like this unless a proper petition challenging an order is produced.

'Theaterisation of commands may take up to 2 yrs'

AS India moves closer to rolling out long-pending theatre commands, questions around force restructuring, particularly the proposal for a dedicated rocket and missile force, have come into sharper focus. **Javaria Rana** spoke with former fighter pilot and military affairs commentator, **Group Captain Ajay Ahlawat (Retd),** to understand the implications of theaterisation, the IAF's concerns, and the much-talked-about proposal for a standalone rocket and missile force. **Excerpts:**

What is the core problem theaterisation is trying to solve within the military?
The current Indian military system is fundamentally disjointed. We are trying to coordinate from a structure that was never designed for integration. We need harmonisation at the planning stage, including procurement harmonisation and from there, synergy in execution, such as joint fires. A joint commander should be able to issue an order that is executed seamlessly, without being filtered through service-specific doctrinal biases.

Take a basic example. Tactical radios used by the Air Force and the Army are similar, but they run on slightly different software and are procured at different costs from the same vendors. Even in systems like IACCS (Integrated Air Command and Control System), where inputs such as Akashteer feed in, integration is still evolving. Theatre commanders can enforce that synergy.

How should theaterisation ideally be structured?
The starting point is not theatre commands. It is a National Security Strategy (NSS). That strategy must define India's comprehensive national ambitions, whether regional or global. From there flows a military doctrine, followed by domain-specific doctrines and then theatre-specific doctrines. Right now, we are attempting structural reform without fully aligning doctrine.

However, services want to protect their turf. These concerns manifest in two ways: competition over senior appointments and control over financial allocations. We have studied models like those of the US and China, but our implementation has to be tailored to Indian realities.

What are the Indian Air Force's key concerns within the theatre command framework?
The IAF's concern has always been about the fragmentation of air power. Air assets are limited and are most effective when centrally controlled.

Earlier, there was a proposal to give the Air Force an Air Defence Command, as a functional command. But that is not equivalent to geographical control, which the Army and Navy would have under theatre commands.

The current understanding attempts to address this. Strategic air assets, such as Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS), air-to-air refuellers, and electronic warfare (EW) aircraft, will remain under Air Headquarters for centralised allocation and deployment to theatres as required. However, fighter squadrons cannot be fragmented arbitrarily. The balance between centralised control and theatre-level execution will be critical.

Verbatim

Where do you stand on dedicated Rocket and Missile Force?
It is a controversial idea and will complicate the system. What we actually need is a robust joint fires concept under the theatre commander. Rockets, missiles and UAVs, these are all elements that must be integrated within a theatre's Area of Responsibility (AOR). If you carve them out into a separate functional command, you are creating silos again. Firepower cannot be treated as a standalone vertical. It has to be part of an integrated operational plan.

How long before theaterisation becomes operational?
The proposal is expected to be submitted to the Defence Ministry soon. This is not a short process. We are looking at a minimum of one to two years before theatre commands become operational. Structural clarity is essential. The plan to create three theatre commands—Western, Northern and Maritime, with cross-service deputy commanders is a step forward.

DRDO's satellite imaging system to help MHA in real-time decision making

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Union Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday received an indigenously developed AI-enabled satellite imaging system, 'Prajna', designed to enhance real-time decision-making capabilities of security agencies.

The system was handed over by Samir V Kamat, Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development, to Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan.

Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the cutting-edge platform has been built by its specialised lab, the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR). Officials described 'Prajna' as a major technological advancement aimed at strengthening surveillance, intelligence gathering and operational response.

According to MHA officials, the AI-enabled system integrates satellite imagery with advanced analytics to provide actionable insights in real time. "The system is designed to significantly improve situational awareness and support faster, more accurate decision-making during critical operations," an official said.

'Prajna' is expected to play a key role in monitoring sensitive regions, tracking suspicious activities and supporting counter-terrorism and border management efforts. By leveraging artificial intelligence, it can process vast volumes of satellite data, identify patterns and flag anomalies that may otherwise go unnoticed through conventional methods.

Security experts believe the deployment of such indigenous technologies marks a shift toward greater self-reliance in national security, as the system is also seen as a force multiplier for agencies operating in challenging terrains, where timely intelligence is crucial. The officials noted that the platform would enhance coordination among security agencies.

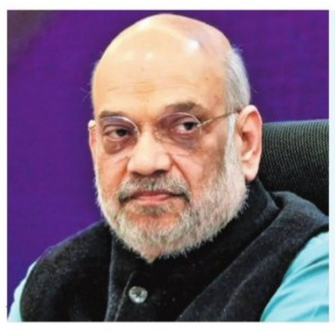
73 offenders convicted till March '26, NCB hailed for fighting drug menace

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday praised the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) for securing convictions for 73 drug offenders in the first three months of 2026, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs said in an official statement.

Earlier, on his X handle, Shah said, "To protect our youth from the scourge of drugs, the Modi govt is ruthlessly demolishing drug cartels and is also ensuring their conviction. Under this mission, the NCB has made a breakthrough in getting 73 drug offenders convicted in the first three months of 2026 with the harshest punishments. We are determined to shut every breathing space of drug rackets with all our might," he noted.

The home ministry said that as many as 9.50 lakh searchable records of arrested and convicted persons under the NDPS Act remain available with the centralised digital database, the National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-Offenders (NIDAAN), which strengthened the anti-drug enforcement agencies. "In the first quarter of 2026, from January to March, the NCB secured convictions of 73 drug offenders in 35 cases. Out of these, four were awarded the maximum sentence of 20 years, while 54 others were awarded sentences of 10 years or more. A total fine of ₹1.22 crore was also imposed on the convicts," they said.



QUICK TAKES

1. 4 convicts received the maximum 20-year sentence, while 54 others got 10 years or more, with total fines of ₹1.22 crore imposed
2. Conviction rate improved from 60.5% in 2024 to 65.5% in 2025 and further to 68.6% in early 2026

The NCB's approach has led to a steady increase in the conviction rate from 60.5 per cent in 2024 to 65.5 per cent in 2025 and now to 68.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2026, it noted.

"The important convictions include international heroin smuggling cases involving seizures of 2.757 kg of heroin at Ahmedabad Airport in 2021 and 4.235 kg of heroin at the Fazilka Indo-Pak border in 2022. In these cases, two foreign traffickers have been awarded 20 years of rigorous imprisonment," the ministry said.

Meanwhile, the statement said, the NCB has also appealed to other Central and state enforcement agencies to identify sub judice cases involving drug kingpins and ensure effective prosecution. This approach to dismantling drug cartels is a key element of the enforcement strategy to address the challenge of drug trafficking, while reaffirming the government's zero-tolerance policy against drug abuse, it added.

Lanka repatriates 19 Indian fishermen, 82 in jail

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

SRI Lanka on Monday repatriated 19 Indian fishermen, who reached home the same evening, even as 82 remain in its custody, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi having raised the issue with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake recently.

The Indian High Commission in Colombo announced on X that the fishermen were expected to return home by Monday evening after repatriation.

The recurring issue of Indian fishermen being apprehended by Sri Lankan authorities for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line continues to strain bilateral ties. At least 360 Indian fishermen were detained in 2025, of whom 339 have since been released and repatriated.

This year alone, 104 fishermen have been apprehended, with 30 already released and brought back to India, while another 30 have been freed and are completing travel-related formalities ahead of return.

At present, 82 Indian fishermen remain in Sri Lankan custody, with 31 awaiting trial and 51 serving sentences under Sri Lankan law. Delhi has consistently raised the issue with Colombo through bilateral mechanisms, diplomatic channels, and official engagements.

During a meeting in Delhi in February, followed by a phone call in March, the PM raised the matter with the Sri Lankan President, urging that it be treated on humanitarian grounds given its impact on livelihoods. He also called for the early release of all detained Indian fishermen and the return of their vessels.

On March 31, a Sri Lankan court, acting on the government's advice, ordered release of 25 Indian fishermen, including 15 from Tamil Nadu and 10 from Puducherry, who had been detained on February 16.

In a departure from standard practice, where fishermen are often charge-sheeted and sentenced, all those detained in this case, including the captain and owner, were released. They were repatriated on April 7.

So far, 104 fisherfolk held in Sri Lanka

At least 360 Indian fisherfolk were detained in 2025, of whom 339 have since been released and repatriated. This year alone, 104 fishermen have been apprehended, with 30 already released and brought back to India, while another 30 have been freed and are completing travel-related formalities ahead of return.

1ST CDS VISIT TO UK TO PUSH TRAINING, FIRM UP DEF TIES

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

CHIEF of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan is set to go on a three-day official visit to the United Kingdom from Sunday, marking the first such visit by an Indian CDS, as both sides step up efforts to expand military cooperation, training linkages and defence partnerships.

During the visit, General Chauhan is scheduled to hold talks with his British counterpart, UK Chief of the Defence Staff Sir Richard Knighton, with discussions expected to focus on enhancing cooperation across operations, joint training and co-production in the defence sector. The visit comes amid a steady uptick in high-level military engagements between the two countries. This is the fifth senior-level interaction between the Indian and UK armed forces this year, following Knighton's visit to India last month.

"General Chauhan's landmark visit shows the trust and ambition driving the UK-India defence partnership. We are stepping up cooperation to strengthen interoperability, spur innovation and support a free, open and secure Indo-Pacific," British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron said.

INDIA, SOUTH KOREA SET $50B TRADE TARGET BY 2030

JAVARIA RANA AND PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

PITCHING their ties as a "message of peace and stability" amid global tensions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Monday expanded cooperation across energy, critical minerals, shipbuilding, semiconductors and steel, set a target to double bilateral trade to $50 billion by 2030 and announced Seoul's entry into the International Solar Alliance and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

The two sides also agreed to resume stalled negotiations to upgrade the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), with the next round scheduled for May and a deadline to conclude talks by the first half of 2027.

Projecting a broader economic and strategic alignment, Modi said cooperation would expand "from chips to ships, talent to technology, environment to energy," spanning semiconductors, electronics, maritime industries and defence manufacturing.

Bilateral trade currently stands at around $27 billion.

To drive this, the two countries agreed to set up a ministerial-level Industrial Cooperation Committee, their first such mechanism, to coordinate investments and supply chains in critical minerals, nuclear and clean energy and advanced manufacturing.

EAM S Jaishankar and his South Korean counterpart exchange an MoU as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, look on | PTI

CEPA 'rewrite'

The push to upgrade CEPA comes amid stalled talks in 2024 over tariffs and non-tariff barriers. The joint declaration commits both sides to holding the next round in May and concluding the upgrade by mid-2027. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said India might rewrite chapters of the CEPA if needed to address India's trade deficit

GRUESOME

The body of a five-year-old girl was found with her throat slit in Bihar's Purnea district, officials said on Monday. Family members went in search of the girl and found her body, with throat injury.

3 COPS SUSPENDED OVER BRIBERY CHARGES IN BIHAR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	27	14	Mumbai	28	23
Bhopal	26	10	Panaji	32	20
Jaipur	23	11	Patna	17	09
Amritsar	12	06	Lucknow	18	09
Chennai	28	21	Port Blair	28	24
Kolkata	23	14	Imphal	22	10
Srinagar	09	-3	Chandigarh	17	09

All eyes on crucial Kolkata seats as BJP targets to make a dent in Mamata's fief ● BJP believes SIR will help the party, but TMC confident

THINNER ROLL, THICKER CONTEST IN KOLKATA

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on December 31, 2025, set an ambitious target for the West Bengal BJP unit, asking it to win at least 20 out of 28 Assembly seats under four Lok Sabha constituencies—Dum Dum, Kolkata North, Kolkata South and Jadavpur—in elections scheduled in two phases on April 23 and 29. The BJP has not won a single Assembly seat in these constituencies in the last two Assembly polls since 2016.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP managed marginal leads in only two Assembly segments—Jorashanko and Shyampukur—both under Kolkata North—while trailing the ruling Trinamool Congress in the remaining 26 seats.

However, following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the deletion of around 91 lakh voters, including more than 63 lakh marked as absent, shifted, dead or duplicate (ASDD) and 27 lakh listed as "under adjudication," has altered the electoral landscape, improving the BJP's prospects in some seats under Kolkata North and Kolkata South.

The scale of deletions in several Kolkata Assembly segments has already surpassed the lead margins secured by the Trinamool Congress in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, suggesting a potential shift in political equations and making contests tighter in seats the party had earlier won comfortably.

The Supreme Court has said that voters who are cleared by tribunals by April 21 for the first phase and April 27 for the second phase will be allowed to vote, which could still influence the final numbers if they are substantial.

Kolkata North comprises seven Assembly segments (Chowringhee, Entally, Beliaghata, Jorashanko, Shyampukur, Maniktala and Cossipore-Belgachia). The constituency recorded deletions of 4,47,541 voters, reducing the electorate from 15,06,339 to 10,58,798, a decline of about 30%, the highest in the state.

Kolkata South, which also comprises seven Assembly segments (Kasba, Behala Purba, Behala Paschim, Kolkata Port, Bhabanipur, Rashbehari, Ballygunge) followed with a 27.5 percent reduction, the second highest. Data from the Election Commission of India show that 6,29,428 ASDD voters were removed from the Kolkata North and South Lok Sabha constituencies.

The BJP believes the SIR process will help consolidate Hindu voters in its favour and weaken the Trinamool minority vote base. Observers say the deletions have made several seats more competitive, raising concerns within the ruling party.

A key contest is expected in Bhabanipur, where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is set to face BJP leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari. Banerjee had won the 2021 bypoll from Bhabanipur by a margin of over 58,000 votes, but the reported deletion of around 50,000 voters in the Hindu-dominated constituency is expected to make the contest tougher. Bhabanipur has about 20% minority voters.

In response, Banerjee has held organisational meetings with party leaders, including Subrata Bakshi, Firhad Hakim and Debashish Kumar, to review the situation and strategise for the upcoming polls.

KOLKATA POLL RESULT 2021 AT A GLANCE

TMC bagged all the seats of the city. Mamata won from Bhabanipur in bye-election

■ Winner ■ Runner up ■ 2nd runner up ■ Margin

KOLKATA PORT
■ Firhad Hakim (AITC), 1,05,543
■ Awadh Kishore Gupta (BJP), 36,989
■ Md Mukhtar (INC), 5,590
■ 68,554

BHABANIPUR (By-election)
■ Mamata Banerjee (AITC), 85,263
■ Priyanka Tibrewal (BJP), 26,428
■ Shrijeeb Biswas (CPM), 4,226
■ 58,835

RASHBEHARI
■ Debasish Kumar (AITC), 65,704
■ Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Subrata Saha (BJP), 44,290
■ Ashutosh Chatterjee (INC), 10,314
■ 21,414

BALLYGUNGE
■ Subrata Mukherjee (AITC), 1,06,585
■ Lokenath Chatterjee (BJP), 31,226
■ Dr. Fuad Halim (CPM), 8,474
■ 75,359

CHOWRANGEE
■ Bandyopadhyay Nayna (AITC), 70,101
■ Devdutta Maji (BJP), 24,757
■ Santosh Kumar Pathak (INC), 14,266
■ 45,344

ENTALLY
■ Swarna Kamal Saha (AITC), 1,01,709
■ Priyanka Tibrewal (BJP), 43,452
■ Md. Iqbal Alam (RSSCMJP), 4,354
■ 58,257

BELEGHATA
■ Paresh Paul (AITC), 1,03,182
■ Kashinath Biswas (BJP), 36,042
■ Rajib Biswas (CPM), 14,045
■ 67,140

JORASANKO
■ Vivek Gupta (AITC), 52,123
■ Meena Devi Purohit (BJP), 39,380
■ Ajmal Khan (INC), 4,769
■ 12,743

SHYAMPUKUR
■ Dr. Shashi Panja (AITC), 55,785
■ Sandipan Biswas (BJP), 33,265
■ Jiban Prakash Saha (AIFB), 10,828
■ 22,520

MANIKTALA
■ Sadhan Pande (AITC), 67,577
■ Kalyan Chaubey (BJP), 47,339
■ Rupa Bagchi (CPM), 13,513
■ 20,238

KASHIPUR-BELGACHIA
■ Atin Ghosh (AITC), 76,182
■ Sibaji Sinha Roy (BJP), 40,792
■ Pratip Dasgupta (CPM), 14,757
■ 35,390

Didi fears arrest of 800 TMC men, moves HC

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

THE Trinamool Congress approached the Calcutta High Court on Monday, two days before the first phase of voting on April 23, fearing that the Election Commission might arrest around 800 of its workers before the polls. The case is scheduled to be heard on Wednesday by a bench led by Chief Justice Sujay Paul and Justice Parthasarathi Sen.

Trinamool MP and lawyer Kalyan Banerjee told the court that the EC had collected names of about 800 party workers from the police. He said they feared arrest and asked the court to intervene.

At an election rally in Birbhum, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said, "They have plans to arrest many persons. I have got a list of their names. They have targetted the Trinamool only. I will not give up and fight against their move."

The CM also alleged bias, saying, "There is one BJP leader in this district who earns crores from coal, but they are not arresting him."

On April 14, she claimed that agencies like the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation were being used to arrest her party workers and polling agents before the elections. She said "midnight raids" were being conducted to weaken the party.

Speaking at rallies in Pingla and Jagatballavpur, she warned, "Thousands of Trinamool workers will come out if you arrest one person." She also spoke about a possible "midnight operation" and said arrests were meant to stop polling agents. "Others will step in. Women could also take their place if needed," she said.

The party insisted that it was prepared for any situation and would continue campaigning despite fears of arrests.

PATNA DIARY

RAMASHANKAR
Our correspondent in Bihar
ramashankar@newindianexpress.com

New government to seek floor test on April 24

The newly formed BJP-led NDA government in Bihar under CM Samrat Choudhary will undergo a floor test on April 24 at a special session of the Assembly. Given the strength of several constituent parties, the government is expected to sail through the test. With the vacant seat of Bankipur constituency yet to be filled after its MLA Nitin Nabin was elected as BJP's national president and later as Rajya Sabha member, the number of NDA MLAs in the State Assembly is 201, while the Opposition has 41 MLAs in the 243-member Assembly. The Opposition is, however, not missing any opportunity to attack the new government.

Shah to chair meeting for Nepal border security

The Central and Bihar governments will hold a high-level meeting on Indo-Nepal border security. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair the crucial meeting at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Delhi on May 2. Sensitive issues, such as border security, infiltration, and narcotics trafficking, will be discussed in detail during this high-level meeting. The state's new Chief Minister, Samrat Chaudhary, may also join this meeting virtually. The meeting will be attended by senior officials from the Home Ministry, along with state's Chief Secretary Pratyaya Amrit and DGP Vinay Kumar. Preparations for the meeting are already underway.

UP-Bihar belt one of brightest regions

NASA satellite data released recently highlights the UP-Bihar belt as one of the brightest regions on the Earth in night-time imagery. Analysing 1.6 million images from 2014–2022, the maps show a significant increase in illumination. This brightness is attributed to rapid electrification, expanded infra, and high population density, hinting at major economic and urban development in the region. Bihar Deputy CM and Energy Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav claimed that Bihar's electricity system is the best in the country, asserting that even NASA has praised the state's illumination. NASA showed Bihar "shining like a diamond", he said.

BJP MLA threatens IPS officer for quizzing son

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

PRITAM Lodhi, a first-time MLA of the ruling BJP from the Pichhore seat of Shivpuri district and an accused in around four dozen criminal cases, including murder and attempt to murder cases, released a video, threatening a young IPS officer, Ayush Jakhar.

Jakhar had recently summoned Lodhi's son Dinesh to his office in connection with the April 16 accident case, in which the Thar Roxx car driven by him had injured five people.

"I cannot swallow what the SDOP of Karera has said. He warned my son not to be seen here again. I want to ask the SDOP, does Karera belong to your 'daddy'?... My son will return to Karera, and he will contest polls. If your 'daddy' has the guts, let him try to stop him," the MLA was seen telling an interviewer in the video.

He said after the April 16 accident, it was he (the MLA) who rang the Karera police first and then the Shivpuri SP to get an FIR lodged against his son.

Sources said the probe into the April 16 accident suggested that Lodhi junior's SUV, instead of bearing a registration number, had 'MLA' and his father's name stickers on the front and back portions of car.

Ahead of the 2023 assembly polls, the MLA had told a journalist on camera that the media didn't know about the actual number of cases against him. In August 2022, Lodhi was expelled from BJP for his "anti-women" remarks, but re-inducted ahead of polls. Lodhi won the seat for the party after 33 years.

Judge recuses from Rahul case hearing

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

JUSTICE Subhash Vidyarthi of the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court on Monday "recused" himself from hearing the case filed by BJP worker S Vignesh Shishir seeking an FIR against LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi over his alleged British citizenship.

The recusal followed strong objection by the HC to Shishir's social media posts and media interviews, which, it noted, cast aspersions on the HC and maligned its dignity after the bench had proposed issuing notice to Gandhi.

Justice Vidyarthi observed that the petitioner had alleged "foul play" by the HC and claimed he was given "unfair treatment". The judge remarked that he "regretted" hearing the case, stating he had been used by the applicant for "political mileage".

The HC said Shishir sought public opinion on social media regarding whether to continue before the same bench and had sought the CJI's indulgence. It stated: "The messages posted on social media amount to casting aspersions on the HC... The HC is of the opinion that he has maligned the Court."

The government advocate and the Deputy Solicitor General of India conceded Shishir's posts were unjustified. The bench expressed dissatisfaction with them for failing to place the correct legal position on whether notice should be issued to the prospective accused before passing an order.

In response, Shishir said his posts were not aimed at the court but at those pressuring him to withdraw. He referred to posts praising the bench's earlier dictated order for lodging an FIR against Gandhi.

Justice Vidyarthi responded that the court did not require appreciation and said such submissions could be made before the appellate court. A detailed order is awaited.

This development came two days after the bench withheld its April 17 dictated order directing registration of an FIR against Rahul Gandhi. In an order uploaded on April 18, the Court halted the earlier direction before it could be signed, noting Gandhi might be entitled to be heard. The matter was listed for April 20 to consider whether to issue notice.

Before arguments could proceed, the bench recused itself. The case will now be placed before another bench upon the Chief Justice's nomination.

Earlier, on April 17, the Court had pronounced the operative portion directing an FIR on Shishir's petition, filed after an ACJM court in Lucknow rejected his plea in January seeking action under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Official Secrets Act, Passport Act, and Foreigners Act.

In the HC, the petitioner claimed that Rahul Gandhi was a UK citizen and had incorporated "M/S Backops Ltd".

HC takes exception to social media posts

The recusal followed strong objection by the HC to the petitioner's social media posts and media interviews, which, it noted, cast aspersions on the court and maligned its dignity after the bench had proposed issuing notice to Rahul Gandhi.

Cricketing spirit! Jadeja family poll clash turns Gujarat political hotspot

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

THE civic election campaign in Rajkot has taken an unexpected, personal turn, transforming a routine political contest into a compelling family face-off. At the centre of the spotlight are two sisters-in-law, standing on opposite sides of the political divide, turning their private relationship into a public electoral battle.

As campaigning intensifies for Rajkot Municipal Corporation polls, the clash has drawn in both political loyalists and curious onlookers. On one side is BJP MLA Rivaba Jadeja, wife of cricketer Ravindra Jadeja, confidently leading her party's campaign. On the opposite side is Naynaba Jadeja, Ravindra Jadeja's sister, who has stepped into the fray as a Congress candidate. The contest has not only sharpened party rivalries but also placed family dynamics

under public scrutiny.

Despite the unusual circumstances, both candidates have maintained a composed public tone. When Rivaba Jadeja arrived in Rajkot to campaign, she extended a courteous gesture toward her sister-in-law. However, her words also carried unmistakable political conviction. Rivaba said, "I congratulate the contesting candidate. However, I have full confidence that BJP will win. I trust BJP workers, and on the 26th, they will ensure the BJP wins with a huge majority and give a befitting reply to Congress."

Her statement set the stage for a contest that blends civility with clear electoral intent. Soon after, Naynaba Jadeja responded with equal determination, shifting the focus firmly onto governance and public sentiment. Naynaba said, "I thank my well-wishers, people of my community, voters of my area, Time will tell who will win. Former BJP corporators have done no work and only indulged in corruption. The public knows this. Whether the BJP loses or wins will be decided in time."

With these exchanges, the campaign has evolved into a broader narrative battle. What began as a family-linked contest is now a symbol of competing political visions; the family-centered political contest turned into a direct war of narratives, with BJP banking on organisation, and the Congress pushing anti-incumbency.

'Subjected to sexual remarks, insult to religion'

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A victim in the alleged case of sexual harassment at the Nashik unit of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has told the police that she was mentally tortured by the accused, subjected to sexual comments, and taunted over her religious beliefs. The police have filed nine FIRs in the case so far and arrested eight people.

She told police, "At Nashik TCS, Shahrukh Khureshi and Jayesh Gunjal were my team leaders. They both mentally harassed me and made insidious comments about my marriage. My husband works in Pune, while I was working in Nashik and staying with my in-laws. The accused used to ask me how I could stay away from my husband." She said that the two team leaders showed excessive interest in her private life. "They asked where I was going for my honeymoon, and what I did during the honeymoon. They said if I needed any help,

I should tell them," the victim told the police.

She said that the team leader of the TCS loan team division, Raja Khureshi, tried to come close to her under different pretexts. "He tried to pull my saree when I was alone at the office pantry. The male colleague used to bully me and made insulting taunts against my lifestyle and religion. Another colleague, Asif, deliberately used to sit close to me, which made me uncomfortable. He used to touch my shoulder and other body parts. Despite the complaints I raised against him, he continued to do objectionable activities," the victim alleged.

The victim said that the accused not only made sexual comments, they also made comments against her religion. "The accused used to make objectionable comments against Hindu gods and goddesses. I made the complaint to the internal office heads, but nothing was done. I wanted to approach police, but was afraid of losing the job. So, I kept silent, tolerated the torture, and did not speak out," said the victim.

The eight arrested include Shafi Shaikh, Asif Ansari, Tausif Attar, Shahrukh Qureshi, Memon, Danish Shaikh, and Ashwini Chainani, the operations and human resources manager.

TCS has clarified that it practices a zero-tolerance policy towards harassment and coercion of any form, and employees allegedly involved in sexual harassment at the Nashik office have been suspended.

No interim relief to accused in Nashik BPO case

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A Nashik court on Monday declined to grant interim relief to Nida Ejaz Khan, one of the accused in the TCS case where many women employees allegedly faced attempts at coercive religious conversion and sexual harassment. Khan had sought anticipatory bail on April 18, arguing that she was two months pregnant. Khan also sought interim protection from arrest till the pendency of the anticipatory bail plea.

The plea will be decided on April 27. Khan moved court for protection from arrest. The police have filed nine FIRs in the case so far and arrested eight people. Khan is the only accused yet to be arrested.

90 held
in Turkey over Islamic State links after consulate shootout

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

DESPITE UNCERTAINTY ON US-IRAN TALKS, PAKISTAN ON HIGH ALERT

Troops deployed at checkpoints, tourist sites closed and major hotels told to limit bookings

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani authorities on Monday prepared to host a second round of talks between Iran and the United States, despite questions about whether the negotiations will take place. Pakistan has intensified diplomatic contacts since Sunday with Washington and Tehran to ensure the talks proceed as soon as Tuesday, officials said on the condition of anonymity.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke by phone late Sunday with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Sharif's office said in a statement that did not mention the planned talks.

The office of Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said he spoke Monday with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, urging sustained diplomacy to address pending issues.

Meanwhile, the foreign office statement did not mention whether they discussed Iran resuming talks with the US in Islamabad, but said officials agreed to remain closely engaged. Authorities began closing key roads and stepping up security in the capital Islamabad over the weekend, particularly around a luxury hotel where the delegations are expected to meet. Authorities deployed troops at checkpoints, closed tourist sites and instructed major hotels to limit bookings.

WAR WATCH

Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker at the US Embassy in Islamabad on Monday. The meeting focused on strengthening Pakistan-US relations and preparations for talks scheduled this week, Naqvi's office said. "We have made comprehensive security arrangements for our distinguished guests," Naqvi said.

An AI enchanced image of an Iranian-flagged cargo ship at sea before being fired upon and seized by a US destroyer in the Gulf of Oman after ignoring warnings | X

Iran warns over oil export curbs

Iran's first vice president, Mohammad Reza Aref, says global fuel prices could stabilize only if economic and military pressures on Iranian oil exports end. "One cannot restrict Iran's oil exports while expecting free security for others," Aref wrote on X. "The choice is clear: either a free oil market for all, or the risk of significant costs for everyone."

China urges Hormuz access

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday called for the opening of the Strait of Hormuz for normal passage of ships, as Beijing described it as an "international waterway" amid assertions by Iran that it has an inalienable right over it.

"The Strait of Hormuz should maintain normal passage, as this serves the common interests of regional countries and the international community," Xi told Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during a phone call. This is the first statement by the Chinese leader on the closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran, followed by the US blockade of Iranian ports in their current conflict.

UK pushes for free navigation

Britain called for a lasting settlement to ensure freedom of navigation and a toll-free Strait of Hormuz as the US-Iran ceasefire hung in the balance. UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper arrived in Japan for the final leg of an "intensified shuttle diplomacy tour" to advance coordination with allies on geopolitical and energy security priorities. During the six-day tour, she held talks with foreign ministers from 11 countries, including Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, the UAE and Ukraine, concluding with a Strategic Dialogue in Tokyo. *AP/PTI*

EU to gauge members' will to punish Israel

BRUSSELS: The EU's top diplomat said on Monday the bloc will assess whether member states are willing to take measures against Israel, after Spain renewed calls to suspend a cooperation deal. Foreign ministers from the 27-nation bloc will discuss the issue in Luxembourg on Tuesday. Trade and sanction options lack agreement. A full suspension requires unanimity, while partial trade measures need a qualified majority, Kaja Kallas said.

Fuel crunch: Bangladesh risks telecom shutdown

DHAKA: Bangladesh faces a widespread shutdown of mobile phones without rapid improvements in fuel shortages sparked by the West Asia war, operators said Monday. The South Asian nation imports 95 percent of its oil and gas, mostly from the West Asia, and shortages have led to long queues at filling stations. The telecom operators' association warned that continued operations are no longer sustainable due to lack of fuel for backup systems and data centres, with risks of network disruptions already emerging.

BIBI VOWS ACTION ON SOLDIER OVER JESUS STATUE VANDALISM

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed "harsh action" on Monday against a soldier caught on camera vandalising a statue of Jesus Christ in southern Lebanon. The photo, which the military determined was authentic after it spread online, shows an Israeli soldier using a sledgehammer to strike the head of a statue of a crucified Jesus that had fallen off a cross.

The sculpture was located in the Christian village of Debl in south Lebanon, near the border with Israel, the local municipality told AFP, but officials could not say whether it had been damaged. AFP geolocated the image to confirm it was taken in Debl, but is currently unable to access the village.

"I was stunned and saddened to learn that an IDF soldier damaged a Catholic religious icon in southern Lebanon," Netanyahu wrote on X. "I condemn the act in the strongest terms. Military authorities are conducting a criminal probe of the matter and will take appropriately harsh disciplinary action against the offender," he added.

Israel has conducted airstrikes across Lebanon and invaded the country's south after Hezbollah entered the Middle East war in support of its backer Iran on March 2. The military said it had determined after an investigation that the image circulating on social media was genuine and showed an Israeli soldier operating in southern Lebanon.

Checks carried out by AFP using detection tools suggested the image was likely genuine, though there were other manipulated photos circulating on social media.

The Israeli military said in a post on its official X account that it viewed the incident with "great severity", adding that the "soldier's conduct is wholly inconsistent with the values expected of its troops". *AFP*

A girl mourns over the coffin of a relative, killed in the war between Hezbollah and Israel during mass funeral in Bazouriyeh village, south Lebanon | AP

EXPRESS READ

FBI chief sues *Atlantic* over drinking report

WASHINGTON: FBI Director Kash Patel sued *The Atlantic* for $250 million, alleging a report on excessive drinking was false and malicious. The magazine stood by its story. The article cited anonymous sources alleging inebriation and absences that alarmed officials. Patel denied the claims and criticised reliance on unnamed sources, while the author said interviews backed the reporting, conducted with more than two dozen sources.

Nepal to pay staff twice a month to boost spending

KATHMANDU: Nepal's government will pay employees twice a month, splitting monthly wages into fortnightly installments to boost spending and support the economy. The Finance Ministry has directed the Financial Comptroller General Office to implement the change, with payments every 15 days. Officials said the move aims to ensure timely pay and increase consumer spending.

60 EUROPEAN NATIONS HOLD TALKS WITH PALESTINIAN PM

BRUSSELS

EUROPE turned its attention to the Palestinians on Monday as the election defeat of Israel ally Victor Orban in Hungary gives new momentum to efforts addressing Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

More than 60 nations sent representatives to Brussels for talks with Palestinian representatives on stability, security and long-term peace.

The European Union has largely been on the sidelines in the West Asia despite being the biggest provider of aid to the Palestinians and backing a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A majority of EU member countries now recognise an independent Palestinian state after many expressed outrage over Israeli actions in Gaza. But the EU had no role in negotiating the October ceasefire in Gaza that took effect after two years of war. And European moves to condemn or sanction some Israeli actions frequently had been vetoed by Orbán.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohamed Mustafa said in Brussels that Gaza requires "one state, one government, one law and one goal." "Our common objective of achieving one security structure under the legitimate authority should guide the effective coordination between the International Stabilization Force, the Palestinian Authority, security institutions and other international actors. Security must not be fragmented," he said. *AP*

Rat poison in baby food jars sparks multi-country recall across Europe

PRAGUE

COUNTRIES across Central Europe pulled baby food off the shelves on Monday after rat poison was discovered in some jars of the HiPP brand over the weekend. Austria's health minister told parents, kindergartens and day care centers to use utmost caution when feeding young children HiPP. The company recalled some of its baby food jars because samples there as well as in Slovakia and the Czech Republic tested positive for rat poison.

Authorities believe tampering occurred in 190-gram (6.7-ounce) jars of baby food made with carrots and potatoes for 5-month-old children that were sold at SPAR supermarkets in Austria. The first sample tested positive on Saturday.

On Monday, Austrian authorities said they were searching for a second jar of baby food that may have poison, Austrian news agency APA reported. "It is deeply disturbing that someone is apparently willing to endanger the health of babies for criminal motives," Health Minister Korinna Schumann told APA.

A view of HIPP baby food on a shelf | AP

In the Czech Republic, two jars of HiPP baby food that tested positive for the poison were found in a store in the city of Brno. The state prosecution in Brno confirmed the find but did not give further details, citing a police investigation.

The Germany-based HiPP said that besides Czechia, contaminated jars were discovered in Slovakia. The company said that "retail partners in both countries have already removed all jars of HiPP baby food from sale as a precaution." Slovak police said they were investigating suspicious jars from a store in the city of Dunajska Streda.

Sticker flags suspect jars

Burgenland Police in Austria said the suspicious products likely have a white sticker with a red circle on the bottom of the jar. Other warning signs include a damaged or opened lid and an unusual or spoiled smell. There might not be a popping noise when the jar is first opened. *AFP*

Iraq reopens strategic Syria border crossing after 13 years

RABĪ'AH

IRAQ reopened a once-bustling border crossing with Syria on Monday, more than a decade after it was closed to trade following the rise of the Islamic State group. With the al-Rabia post — known as al-Yarubiyah on the Syrian side — back in operation, all three border crossings between Iraq and Syria are now open. Border Ports Authority chief Omar Al-Waeli told journalists during the reopening ceremony that al-Rabia "is a strategic border port" that had been shut for almost 13 years.

He added that the crossing "will play an important role on the Development Road", a mega-project aimed at providing a link between Asia and Europe via upgraded rail and road infrastructure through Iraq and Turkey. Previously a major trade route between the two countries, the al-Rabia crossing in Nineveh province closed after the emergence of the Islamic State group, which seized large swathes of Syria and Iraq in a lightning offensive in 2014.

Although the jihadists were later defeated, the border crossing remained closed and was only briefly used to deliver aid into war-torn Syria. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

Google execs deny link in graft trial

Google executives told a corruption court its investment in ride-hailing firm GoTo was unrelated to a pandemic-era Chromebook procurement. Their testimony challenges charges against former education minister Nadiem Anwar Makarim, accused of causing $125 million in losses. Prosecutors allege he favoured Google devices and benefited financially. Executives denied any link between investment and policy decisions. Makarim also denied wrongdoing, saying procurement was handled by officials. He faces life imprisonment if convicted, with verdict expected soon.

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(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)
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IDFC FIRST Bank

APPENDIX IV [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of **IDFC First Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notices calling upon the Borrower/ Co-borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the demand notice appended below within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization.
The Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this notice.

Loan Account Number	Borrower/s/ Co-borrower/s & Guarantors Name	Description of The Mortgaged Properties	Demand Notice		Date and Type of Possession Taken
			Date	Outstanding Amount (Rs.)	
82259556	1. Anilkumar LS, 2. Umadevi R	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No.182, Having RDPR Unique Code No./Property No. And E-katha No.152900401901200366, According To Form No. 9 And 11A Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, Lakshmipura Grama Panchayathi, Situated At Lakshmipura Village, Ramanagara Taluk And Dist., Karnataka, Measuring East To West 8.2296 Mtr And North To South 9.4488 Mtr, In Total Measuring 77.76 Sq.meters And Thereon Bulding Measuring 77.76 Sq.meters, The Property Is Bounded On The : **East By: Govt Kharab, West By : House Of Gayithramma, North By : Govt Road, South By : Land Of Survey No. 8/2 Belongs To Mahesh.**	30.10.2025	Rs. 4,44,347.08/-	17.04.2026 Possession
94946321	1. Jayaramu B, 2. Mangala Gowramma	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 436/436, Having Rdpr Unique Code No./property No. And E Katha No. 152900401500700450, According To Form No. 9 And 11a Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, Kailancha Grama Panchayathi, Situated At Nagohalli Village, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka-562159, Measuring East To West 9.144 Mtr. And North To South 12.192 Mtr., In Total Measuring 111.48 Sq. Meters And Thereon Building Measuring 111.48 Sq. Meters And The Property Is Bounded On The : **East : Land Of Renukaiah, West : House Of Rachaiah, North: Road, South : Land Of Lakshmanaiah**	30.08.2025	Rs. 8,12,143.88/-	17.04.2026 Possession
105369923 & 149164569	1. Mahadeva LB 2. Venkatalakshmamma N	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 18/21, Having Rdpr Unique Code No./property No. And E-katha No. 152900201701400177, According To Form No. 9 And 11a Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, Doddamudavadi Grama Panchayathi, Situated At Aratabele Village, Harohalli Taluk, And Ramanagara District, Karnataka-562117, Measuring East To West 8.53 Mtr. And North To South 12.19 Mtr., In Total Measuring 104.05 Sq. Meters And Thereon Building Measuring 104.05 Sq. Meters, And Bounded As : **East By : Site No. 20, West By : Site No. 22, North By : Site No. 29, South By : Road**	10.12.2025	Rs. 11,87,944.04/-	17.04.2026 Possession
122490272	1. Alamelamma S 2. Shankarachari P	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 135 Having Rdpr Unique Code No./property No. And E Katha No.152900400300900182 According To Form No. 11b Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, Bannikuppe (b) Grama Panchayathi, Situated At Ganakallu Village. Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka-562109, Measuring East To West 10.0584 Mtr. And North To South 9.7536 Mtr. In Total Measuring 98.11 Sq. Meters And Thereon Building Measuring 98.11 Sq. Meters., And The Property Is Bounded On The:- **East : Land Of Shivarudraiah, West : Road, North : Land Of Shivarudraiah, South : Sy. No. 36/6**	11.10.2025	Rs. 8,09,867.65/-	17.04.2026 Possession
126011903	1. Manja D, 2. Muniyakka D, 3. Doddavenkataswamy C	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 85, Having Rdpr Unique Code No./property No. And E-katha No. 152900400201300127 According To Form No. 11b Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, Bannikuppe (kai) Grama Panchayathi, Situated At Shivanahalli Village, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka-562159, Measuring East To West 10.66 Mtr. And North To South 9.44 Mtr., In Total Measuring 100.79 Sq. Meters And Thereon Building Measuring 100.79 Meters, And Bounded As : **East : Land Of Rajanna, West : House Of Padmamma, North : Thirugaduva Road, South : House Of Muniswamaiah.**	17.12.2025	Rs. 7,74,047.14/-	17.04.2026 Possession

The Borrower/ Co-borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **IDFC First Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)** for an amount mentioned in the demand notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
IDFC First Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)

Date : 17.04.2026
Place : Ramanagara, Karnataka

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender No: 06-OEW-26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB. PUB075

Sr.DEE/M/HYB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following Tenders Closing **date. 14-05-2026, 15:00.hrs** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

1. Description of work : Tender No. 06-OEW -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB: Hyderabad Division: Replacement of 11KV HT OH lines with UG cables, Replacement of Transformers and HT Augmentation Works. **Approx. Cost :** (₹) 5,90,37,084/- **EMD :** (₹) 11,80,800/- **Completion period:** 12 Months **Date of Closing :** 14-05-2026

Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, (M)Hyderabad

TENDER NOTICE NO: 03/2026 Dt.17.04.2026
SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS
e-Procurement Tender Notice PUB076

The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website **www.ireps.gov.in** And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Submitted Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System As Available On **www.ireps.gov.in**."

Tender No.	Brief Description
62261275	Stainless Steel pipe 25mm
30263524	Face plate for Buffer plunger
25264617A	AOH Replacement Kit for Single Bottle VCB
33261155	Flexible joint
38261193	Knuckle Thrower
38263708	OH, Kit for EL-60 Valve
67265001	MIG-MAG and MMA inverter-based welding machine
67245003B	Supply. Erection, commissioning and testing of EOT crane 15 T
60265488	Procurement of special Rubber pads of different variants.
67245014B	Design manufacturing, supply & installation. Commissioning of 15 T Capacity EOT Crane
52265006	Supply of on Hand Terminal Tablet for SMMS Applications.
66265675	Procurement of LORAM make spares for Track Machines
67245020B	Design manufacturing, supply , installation. Commissioning of 15/5 Tons Capacity EOT Crane
6026PT012	Supply of fitting (galvanised) for steel channel sleeper to RDSO Drg.No.B.1636/ R2 and1636/2
30261322	Head stock Arrangement
38261025	Top Side Bearer Liner

Note:-Due dates of Tender Opening: SL.No.01 on dt.05.05.2026.SL.No. 02 on dt.07.05.2026. SL.No. 03 & 04 on dt.08.05.2026. SL.No.05 to 08 on dt.11.05.2026. SL.No.09 to 12 on dt.13.05.2026. SL.No.13 on dt.18.05.2026 SL.No.14 on dt .25.05.2026. SL.No.15 on dt .01.06.2026. SL.No.16 on dt .04.06.2026.

Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having **Value Above Rs.50 Lakhs.**
For Details, Please Visit Railway Website Above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/Secunderabad
A088

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BUSINESS

12 BENGALURU | TUESDAY 21.04.2026 | newindianexpress.com

Market Watch

MARKET			GOLD*			SILVER*			FOREX		
26.76	Sensex	78,520.30	₹490	24 carat (10 gm)	₹155,440	1 kg	₹275,000	Dollar	93.06
11.30	Nifty	24,364.85	₹450	22 carat (10 gm)	₹142,500	10 gm	₹2,750	Euro	109.36

*Delhi Mandi Price

RBI rolls back restrictions on rupee trade

Retains $100 million cap on banks' net open positions in onshore market even as rupee remains under pressure

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE Reserve Bank (RBI) has withdrawn several curbs imposed on April 1 regarding rupee derivatives trade with immediate effect, though it has opted to retain $100 million cap on banks' net open positions in the onshore market. The RBI's decision to pivot comes even as the rupee faced sustained pressure throughout last week.

The RBI imposed curbs on the rupee after it crossed 95 level. On March 27, the RBI capped banks' net open positions in the onshore derivatives market at $100 million to curb volatility. When that measure failed to halt the currency's slide, the RBI tightened its grip on April 1 by banning arbitrage trades, prohibiting banks from offering non-deliverable forwards to corporate clients, and barring the rebooking of cancelled forward contracts. Banks were restricted from entering into rupee-linked forex derivative contracts with related parties.

In a new directive issued Monday titled 'Risk Management and Inter-bank Dealings,' the RBI announced that a review had led to the withdrawal of the April 1 instructions. This reopens the door for banks to offer non-deliverable forwards and allows for the rebooking of cancelled contracts.

While the ban on related-party deals was eased, the regulator refined the rules to permit only the cancellation and rollover of existing contracts, alongside transactions conducted with non-resident entities on a back-to-back basis. As per the directive, authorised dealers are still restricted from new related-party contracts outside of these specific exceptions, aligning with the master direction established in July 2016.

Despite these relaxations, the $100-million cap on net open positions remains a firm barrier. The RBI's strategy appears to be a delicate balancing act: curbing speculative trading that could weaken the currency further while restoring liquidity and easing the path for genuine hedging.

The market remains volatile in the face of these changes. The rupee fell 19 paise on Monday to settle at 93.10. While the unit opened at 92.73 and hit an intra-day high of 92.70, it eventually gave up those gains as geopolitical tensions in West Asia drove dollar demand and kept crude oil prices steady.

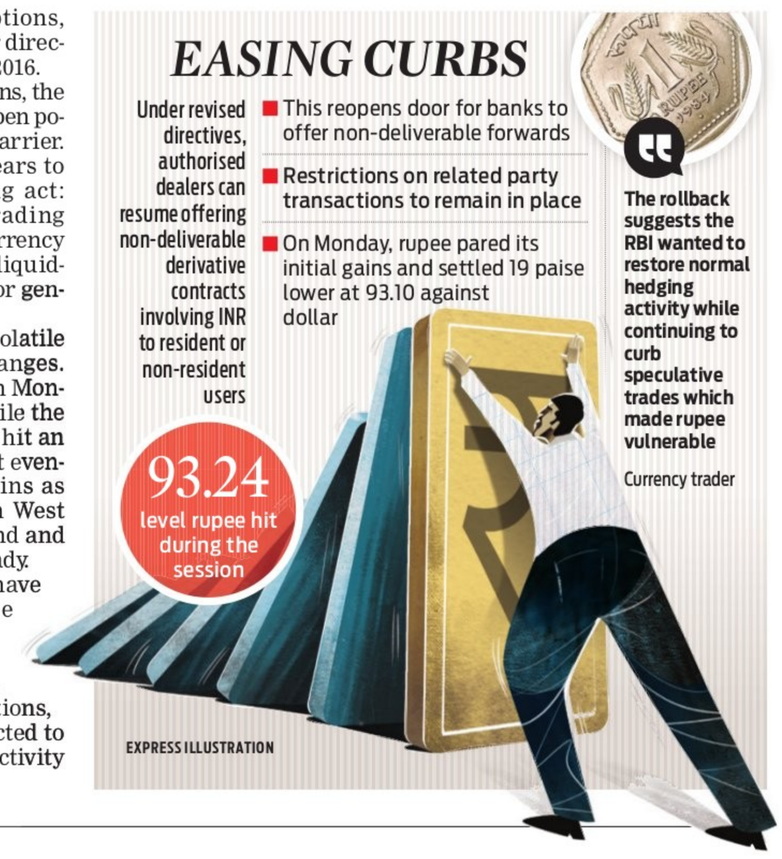
Market participants have largely welcomed the move. Traders noted that liquidity had thinned significantly following the April restrictions, and the rollback is expected to restore normal hedging activity for businesses.

EASING CURBS

Under revised directives, authorised dealers can resume offering non-deliverable derivative contracts involving INR to resident or non-resident users

- This reopens door for banks to offer non-deliverable forwards
- Restrictions on related party transactions to remain in place
- On Monday, rupee pared its initial gains and settled 19 paise lower at 93.10 against dollar

93.24 level rupee hit during the session



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

The rollback suggests the RBI wanted to restore normal hedging activity while continuing to curb speculative trades which made rupee vulnerable

Currency trader

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Middle-income trap: Govt drawing plans to escape it

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

WITH the risk of India getting stuck in the middle-income trap, the government is working on a detailed report on how to avoid such a situation. Sources told TNIE that India has only 20 years left to escape the middle-income trap, and therefore, it is studying countries which successfully avoided getting into the trap.

"Since 1990s, only 34 middle-income economies have managed to shift high income category, we will study what they did to escape the trap. We will also study those countries which failed to do so, and the mistakes they committed," said a government official on the condition of anonymity.

The report is only in its early phase, and the official did not give any timeline for finalisation of the report. As per sources, the government is studying a World Bank report on middle-income trap that was published in 2024. The World Bank in a report titled World Development Report 2024: The Middle Income Trap in 2024 had said that more than 100 countries —including China, India, Brazil, and South Africa — face serious obstacles that could hinder their efforts to become high-income countries in the next few decades.

As per World Bank classification, countries with per capita annual GDP in the range of $1,136 to $13,845 are classified as middle-income countries. India has per capita GDP of around $3,000. India has set the target of achieving $10,000 (at current prices) per capita GDP by 2047.

The World Development Report 2024 argues that many countries that successfully escape poverty struggle to move beyond middle-income status because the drivers of early growth stop working. In the initial stages, growth is powered largely by investment—building infrastructure, expanding labour participation, and accumulating capital. But as countries get richer, these strategies deliver diminishing returns, and growth begins to slow. According to it, economies fail to transition to a more advanced model based on technology adoption and innovation, and as a result, they stagnate at moderate income levels.

FINDING A WAY

1. India is studying countries which avoided getting into the trap
2. Nations with capita GDP in $1,136 to $13,845 range are classified as middle-income

Vedanta Group approves May 1 as effective demerger date

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

BILLIONAIRE Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta has approved May 1, 2026, as the effective date for the demerger of its aluminium, merchant power, oil and gas and iron ore verticals into separate listed entities.

As part of the demerger, Vedanta plans to separately list four entities — Vedanta Aluminium Metal Limited (VAML), Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd (TSPL), Malco Energy Ltd (MEL) and Vedanta Iron and Steel Limited (VISL). As per the exchange filing, under the composite scheme of arrangement, shareholders of Vedanta will receive equity shares in four businesses in a 1:1 ratio.

"This is to inform you that the Board of Directors of the Company, at its meeting held on April 20, 2026, as part of the ongoing reorganisation process, has inter alia, approved the following: (i) To make the Scheme effective on May 1, 2026; and (ii) In consultation with VAML, TSPL, MEL and VISL, the Board has fixed May 1, 2026, as the record date for determining the shareholders eligible to receive consideration pursuant to the Scheme," said Vedanta in a regulatory filing.

It said the demerger will help in simplifying the firm's corporate structure with sector focussed independent businesses and provide opportunities to global investors, including sovereign wealth funds, retail investors and strategic investors, with direct investment opportunities in dedicated pure-play companies linked to India's remarkable growth story through Vedanta's world class assets.

Paint cos gear up for price increase again

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

COMPANIES' MARGINS LIKELY TO IMPROVE

The upcoming surge follows a price appreciation of 6-10% since the West Asia war. Nomura believes volumes are unlikely to be impacted, while improved realisations are expected to support sales growth and margins.

PAINT companies are gearing up for another round of price hikes over elevated crude oil prices and a rise in other input and logistics costs. The upcoming surge follows a price appreciation of 6-10% since the West Asia war which triggered a sharp rise in global oil prices.

The country's largest paint company Asian Paints will be increasing prices of its products in the range of 3-5% from May 5, 2026. Brokerage firm Nomura noted that this hike takes the cumulative price increase to high single digits to double digits, following the earlier 6–8% hike implemented in April amid continued supply chain disruptions that raised costs of raw materials, packaging and logistics.

Nomura believes volumes are unlikely to be impacted, while improved realisations are expected to support sales growth and margins.

While Asian Paints has gone for a 6-8% hike, Birla Opus took a slightly higher increase of 8-10% (following its hikes of 2-4% in Jan). Other players such as Berger, JSW-Dulux, Kansai Nerolac and Indigo took similar hikes of 6-8% staggered over two-three phases in March-April (2-3% in March, rest in April). Systematix Institutional Equities, following a channel check, believe another round of price hikes of 6-8% could happen in June-July if crude oil holds at current levels.

Paint makers' costs are 35-40% tied to crude-linked raw materials. While prices of phthalic anhydride and packaging expenses have risen sharply with crude's recent climb, a depreciating rupee has added to import cost pressures.

"The initial hikes cover crude oil inflation up to end-4Q26 (covering Brent crude at $75-80/bbl on average)– this inventory will be utilised in 1Q27, when the price hikes largely take effect (with a lag of a month or so). Crude holding at current $90 levels implies further sequential inflation of 20% in 1Q27, which remains unaddressed by pricing as yet," said Systematix Institutional Equities.

Q1FY27 gross margins could fall 50-100 bps QoQ for Asian Paints and Berger to account for slight transmission lag. Unless a fresh round of hikes is taken, Q2FY27 gross margins could be impacted by 400-450 bps QoQ, as per Systematix.

An industry executive said that they will not shy away from further price hikes if raw material prices remain high.

"What's important is that all the players are protecting their margin by opting for price hikes rather than going for a price war to grab market share. I believe a price hike of 5-7% is around the corner," the executive said requesting anonymity.

EXPRESS READ

CSR spends jump 23% to ₹22,212 cr in FY25

MUMBAI: CSR spendings by 1,549 NSE-listed companies rose 23% to ₹22,212 crore in the financial year 2024-25 from ₹18,011 crore in FY24, when it had surged by 16% to ₹15,561 crore. Reliance (₹1,309.50 cr), HDFC Bank, TCS, ONGC , ICICI Bank are top CSR spenders. *ENS*

BSE announces launch of Housing Finance Index

NEW DELHI: BSE Index Services, subsidiary of BSE Ltd, on Monday announced launch of the BSE Housing Finance Index, aimed at tracking performance of firms engaged in the housing finance segment. The newly launched index is derived from constituents of the BSE 1,000 Index. *ENS*

Q4 EARNINGS

BANK OF MAHA PROFIT JUMPS 35% TO ₹2,014 CR ON LOAN GROWTH

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

STATE-run Bank of Maharashtra has reported a 35% year-on-year rise in March quarter net profit at ₹2,014 crore, driven by strong growth in net interest income, advances, and overall business coupled with better asset quality. For the full year, the bank reported its highest-ever profit at ₹7,019 crore compared to ₹5,520 crore in the previous year.

The Pune-based based bank said its net interest income rose 19% to ₹3,702.5 crore, helped by steady growth in core income and an improvement in asset quality along with a drop in provisions.

On the business front, total deposits grew 14.14% YoY to ₹3.50 trillion, while gross advances rose 21.74% to ₹2.91 trillion, while net advances increased 22.03% to ₹2.88 trillion. Of the total deposits, as much as 48.50% were low cost Casa deposits. Asset quality improved sequentially, with gross non-performing assets declining to 1.45% from 1.6% in the December quarter, while net NPAs eased to 0.13% from 0.15% - the best in the industry. However, slippages increased on a quarter-on-quarter basis. The bank saw its provisions fall sharply on the back of record fall in bad loans. The bank set aside only ₹617 crore, significantly lower than ₹983 crore in the year-ago period.

India engages with Iran after firing on vessels for safe passage of ships

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AFTER an incident involving firing on Indian vessels by Iran, the government on Monday said it is in constant touch with Iranian authorities to ensure the safe passage of all India-bound ships through the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran reportedly fired at two Indian crude vessels on Saturday. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, during a press briefing, said India is in touch with Iranian authorities to ensure safety of its ships and their secure transit through the Strait.

On Saturday, Iran fired at India's Samnar Herad and bulk carrier Jag Arnav while they were transiting the strait. The vessels have since returned to the Persian Gulf.

Meanwhile, crude oil tanker Desh Garima, carrying 97,422 tonne of crude oil and 31 Indian seafarers, crossed the Strait on April 18 and is expected to reach Mumbai on April 22. Global crude oil prices surged on Monday amid uncertainty over reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Brent Crude was trading at $94.13 per barrel, up 4.15% from its previous close, while the May contract of WTI rose 4.65% to $87.75 per barrel.

Iran has re-imposed the closure of the Strait of Hormuz until the US lifts its naval blockade, escalating concerns over regional stability. The US said on Sunday it had seized an Iranian cargo ship attempting to breach the blockade, while Iran warned of retaliation—raising fears of renewed hostilities.

Iran stated that it would not participate in a second round of negotiations before the current two-week ceasefire expires later this week.

Oil prices rise amid uncertainty over Hormuz reopening

Global crude oil prices surged on Monday amid uncertainty over the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Brent Crude was trading at $94.13 per barrel, up 4.15% from its previous close, while the May contract of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) rose 4.65% to $87.75 per barrel.

TAX FRAUD

Mastermind of ₹1,825 cr GST scam arrested

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Ahmedabad Zonal Unit of the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) has arrested Kapil Chugh, the alleged mastermind behind a staggering ₹1,825 crore GST refund fraud. Chugh was apprehended at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport on April 19, upon his return from Dubai.

Chugh had fled to Dubai, evaded investigation and did not respond to 22 consecutive summons issued by the DGGI. Officials have labeled the case as one of the largest GST refund scams ever detected, characterised by a highly organised network of dummy entities and fictitious trade.

"Chugh emerges as the key mastermind and habitual economic offender who controlled the entire network via dummy firms, employees and close associates. The entities were created using borrowed KYC documents and were found to be non-functional or lacking infrastructure, manpower and genuine business activity at the declared premises," stated the government after the arrest. Investigations revealed Chugh, alongside associate Vipin Sharma, controlled several dummy firms created using borrowed KYC documents, that existed only on paper, without genuine infrastructure or manpower.

They generated fraudulent Input Tax Credit (ITC) by circulating fake purchase invoices for high-value tobacco products. Simultaneously, they procured low-quality tobacco and smoking mixtures locally at nominal prices.

GCC hirings rebound in Q4, replacement roles rise as Gen Z tenure shrinks

PADMINI DHRUVARAJ @ Bengaluru

INDIA'S Global Capability Centre (GCC) hiring growth is being shaped by a drop in Gen Z tenure, with employees now staying in roles for less than 24 months, forcing companies into a cycle of continuous replacement hiring.

As per a Quess Corp report, hiring across GCCs grew by 12-14% quarter-on-quarter in Q4 FY26, a jump from the 4-6% growth recorded in the previous quarter.

However, nearly 40% of all hiring is now driven by replacement needs rather than new job creation. The shift is closely linked to changing workforce patterns, with Gen Z employees staying in roles for less than 24 months on average. This shortening tenure cycle is forcing companies to constantly refill positions, turning hiring into a maintenance function rather than pure expansion.

Rise of flexible staffing

Another clear trend is the rise of flexible staffing. Contract roles now make up for 25% of the GCC workforce, reflecting a shift towards more agile hiring models as firms try to manage both skill shortages and project-based demand

"Q4FY26 reflects a clear recovery in India's GCC ecosystem, with momentum gaining across diverse sectors. However, we are witnessing a structural shift: a higher volume of recruitment is being diverted to replacement roles as tenure cycles shorten," said Kapil Joshi, CEO of IT Staffing.

At the same time, demand continues to be concentrated in high-end digital capabilities. Roles linked to AI, platform engineering, and cloud infrastructure remain the biggest drivers of hiring. Yet, these are also the areas facing the most acute talent shortages. The report highlights a 38-42% gap in AI and data roles, 32-36% in platform engineering, and 28-32% in cloud infrastructure.

This scarcity is pushing companies to compete aggressively. In the BFSI sector, firms are offering salary premiums of up to 1.5 to 2.5 times to attract specialised AI talent, underlining how critical these skills have become.

Geographically, hiring remains heavily concentrated in Tier 1 cities, which account for 88-90% of total GCC recruitment, with Bengaluru and Hyderabad leading demand.

Hockey India names 36-strong probables list

Hockey India named a 36-member core probable group for the upcoming senior men's national coaching camp, scheduled to be held in Bengaluru from April 20 to May 9. The camp will focus on tactical cohesion, conditioning, and match-simulation sessions as the team prepares for a busy international season, which includes World Cup.

AFI penalised for high doping cases

Athletics Integrity Unit changes Athletics Federation of India's category from B to A, classifies it as 'extremely high' risk

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

DOPING is turning into a severe sore point for Indian athletics. Testing positive for banned substances seemed to have become a norm. So much so that World Athletics' anti-doping watchdog Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has changed Athletics Federation of India's category from B to A and classified it as 'extremely high' risk. Not just globally, Indian athletes have been topping National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) charts as well.

On their part, the AFI acknowledged AIU's decision to place India in Category A and said they would work towards helping India out of the mess. According to AIU, this decision was taken because India figured in the top two for the last three years between 2022 and 2025.

"This decision, recently taken by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) Board, relates to the consistently "extremely high" risk of doping in India which has ranked in the top two for the most Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) in athletics between 2022 and 2025," said an AIU statement. "In 2022, India recorded 48 ADRVs (ranked 2nd); in 2023, 63 (ranked 2nd); in 2024, 71 (ranked 1st); and for 2025, India has recorded 30 ADRVs so far (ranked 1st) (note: there will be a substantial time lag in reporting the final ADRV numbers)."

What happens in Category A

Category 'A' Member Federations shall ensure there is an effective, intelligent and proportionate annual Testing programme maintained and implemented in athletics within their jurisdiction that complies with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations. According to one of AIU's rule, "the objective of ensuring that all Athletes who compete as part of a National Team in any World Athletics Series Event, Olympic Games or World Athletics Ultimate Championship, and who are not already on the International Registered Testing Pool, have been adequately tested in accordance with the requirements of this Rule."

This means India will have to adhere to stringent anti-doping norms. The Athletics Federation of India will have to ensure an extensive doping programme is framed for all their athletes. "Under the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules, the AIU Board categorises all Member Federations according to their doping risk to the sport," said AIU, adding "Category A' Member Federations, representing the highest risk, are subject to more stringent requirements under the Rules, including minimum testing requirements for their national team athletes."

AIU chair David Howman elaborated on India's doping menace by saying, "The doping situation in India has been high-risk for a long time and, unfortunately, the quality of the domestic anti-doping programme is simply not proportionate to the doping risk."

Howman said that though the AFI has advocated for anti-doping reforms within India, not enough has changed. "The AIU will now work with the AFI to achieve reforms to safeguard the integrity of the sport of athletics, as we have done with other 'Category A' Member Federations," he said.

AFI spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla said that doping undermines the growth of athletics in India. In fact, AFI has come out with a policy of penalising coaches and support staff if found guilty of aiding and abetting athletes to use banned substances. "I was the one who pushed the first doping bill," he said. "I want criminalisation of doping for the coaches and especially for those distributing and pushing forbidden substances. Bill needs to be modified including criminalisation for suppliers and distributors and sellers."

The AFI also said that it has actively collaborated with anti-doping bodies, both domestic and international, to strengthen education, enhance testing, and support intelligence-led investigations. "Notably, the AIU has recognised AFI's push for meaningful anti-doping reforms in India," said AFI. "AFI remains committed to working closely with the AIU and NADA to combat doping."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

WRESTLING

FOUR FOREIGN COACHES SHORTLISTED

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

FOUR foreign coaches will be interviewed jointly by Sports Authority of India and Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) in presence of representatives from the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Tuesday. One of them is set to be appointed as the high performance director (HPD) while others are expected to be given charge of coaching the wrestlers in three separate styles — women's wrestling, men's freestyle and Greco-Roman.

The WFI has forwarded the names to the SAI and all of them are almost finalised for the jobs. As reported by this daily, Shako Bentinidis, former coach of Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Bajrang Punia, is set to take over as the men's freestyle coach. Kosei Akaishi from Japan and Gogi Koguashvili have been shortlisted for coaching women's and Greco-Roman wrestlers respectively. Akaishi is two-time Olympic medallist from Japan while Koguashvili is five-time world champion and a bronze medallist from the 1992 Olympics. USA's Ian Butler, in all probability, will be appointed as the wrestling HPD.

E Shako Bentinidis

Butler is a professional fighter, elite world-level grappler, and internationally recognised wrestling coach. He is a two-time world medallist, Pan-American silver medallist, and multiple Open Champion who has competed across top global combat sports platforms. He is also the founder and owner of Silverback Wrestling Club, one of the fastest growing wrestling development systems in the USA. He has worked with the USA and Canada national teams as well.

"From our side, we have finalised them and now the SAI and TOPS have to take a call," a WFI source told this daily.

"We want these foreign coaches to join as soon as possible because the Asian Games are scheduled in a few months. Except the Japanese coach, everyone has given a nod to join at the earliest. The Japanese coach is right now contracted with IIS Bellary and that was an issue. However, even the IIS has agreed to relieve him before the end of the contract period, so now he can also join the women's team," added the source. The WFI on September 30 last year invited applications for the post of foreign coaches in all three styles. The last date for submission of the applications was November 15. The invitation said that the engagement of these foreign coaches is aimed at the preparation of the national teams for the 2026 Asian Games. The contract, however, could be extended with mutual agreement keeping the performance of coaches in mind till the 2028 Los Angeles Games, read the invitation letter.

The women wrestlers are currently camping at the IG Stadium in New Delhi while the men wrestlers are training at the SAI centre in Lucknow. It is expected that the men's camp may be shifted to Sonepat, Haryana once the coaches are officially appointed. "It all depends on what the coaches and SAI feel is right for the wrestlers," added the source.

Shortlisted coaches

- E Shako Bentinidis, Georgia – Freestyle
- Gogi Koguashvili, Russia – Greco-Roman
- Kosei Akaishi, Japan – Women's wrestling
- Ian Butler, USA – High Performance Director

Full story: newindianexpress.com

FIFA officials in India for 11th hour WC media rights arrangement

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Bengaluru

OFFICIALS from FIFA have spent considerable time in India over the last few days in the hope of securing a partner for the upcoming World Cup in US, Mexico and Canada. The world governing body have been hunting for a broadcast partner but broadcasters, while showing interest, have stayed away from meeting the $100mn price for the next two World Cups (2026 and 2030).

When FIFA launched the media rights tender in the Indian subcontinent in July 2025, they had set the last date for submission of tender as September 2. But because no companies were willing to meet an unwritten price — thought to be in the region of $100mn — FIFA slashed these rates to make it more attractive. But media companies have still stayed away.

A couple of reasons why Indian broadcasters have shunned away from aggressively bidding for the World Cup is the unattractive kickoff times. With most matches set to begin after 11.00 PM, the return on investment may not be all that appealing. There's also the lack of a competition this time out following the merger between Jio and Star. For JioStar, it's also a matter of keeping some powder dry for bidding for the next set of rights for the Indian Premier League post the 2027 edition.

It's thought that JioStar may bid if the prices are slashed further but it's understood that officials are yet to visit their office over the last few days. Jio, who held the rights for the Qatar World Cup before the merger, had secured that event for about $62mn.

Sony are another option but they have conscientiously stayed away from bidding wars. Beside, their networks will have the upcoming India men and women's tour of England on TV at the same time as the World Cup. In a way, Sony has been the default pitstop for international matches (they are the existing rights holder for Euros as well as most of the World Cup qualifiers). Sony also broadcasted the 2014 and 2018 World Cups, with the former being in a similar time zone with matches typically beginning at5 10.30 PM and going on till 8.15 AM IST.

Doordarshan is always an option as they can carry events of national importance. So if nothing else, Indian viewers may be able to see the semis and the finals, if no other broadcaster is able to come to an arrangement.

If the past is anything to go by, broadcasters usually find an arrangement to make a deal. In 2002 for instance, Ten Sports bagged the rights with 40 days to go for the event. DD are no strangers to broadcasting live football. In fact, they showed the last time the World Cup was held in the US.

The quadrennial bash, the first time to feature 48 teams, is set to begin on June 11 with a match between Mexico and South Africa in Group A.

PAST MEDIA RIGHTS

WC Year	Broadcaster	Value
2022	Jio	$62mn
2014, 2018	Sony	$90mn (also included 2016 Euros)
2010	ESPN Star	$40mn

(Approximate amount and rights may have granted telecasting other FIFA properties)

Tilak lifts MI with sensational ton

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

TILAK Varma's sensational century helped Mumbai Indians post 199/5 and beat Gujarat Titans by 99 runs in Ahmedabad on Monday.

Having won only one match in seven games, Mumbai came into the game under pressure to deliver. They made as many as four changes while continuing to wait for Rohit Sharma, and they needed one of the star players to step up and deliver. Varma put his hand up on the day, hitting an unbeaten 101 in 45 balls. He did so despite MI losing two wickets early. Suryakumar Yadav once again failed, but Varma, along with Naman Dhir (45) first and Hardik Pandya later, put MI in a position of strength.

In reply, GT were off to a rocky start. Jasprit Bumrah, who had been searching for his first wicket of the season, was handed the new ball and he delivered. On the very first delivery, he removed B Sai Sudharsan. Pandya followed up with the dismissal of Jos Buttler and soon Titans were on the backfoot. The onus was on Shubman Gill to steady the ship but he too did not last long as Ashwani Kumar removed Titans skipper. Soon, Mitchell Santner struck twice to remove Glenn Phillips and Washington Sundar. Ashwani later dismissed Rahul Tewatia and from thereon, it was only a matter of time before MI had the final laugh.

MI's Tilak Varma scored 101 off just 45 balls on Monday against GT | BCCI

BRIEF SCORES: MI 199/5 in 20 ovs (Tilak 101 n.o, Naman 45; Rabada 3/33) **bt** GT 100 in 15.5 ovs (Ashwani 4/24, Santner 2/16).

Mid-table battle

With Sunrisers Hyderabad taking on Delhi Capitals, a look...

The number 3-4 conundrum

While Sameer Rizvi has shown he is capable of doing the job for Capitals, if there was one weak link in the batting line-up it is the No 3-4 spot. They have one of the strongest middle-orders, but should not leave it too late for them because of No 3-4 batters.

DC bowling vs Travishek

Without Mitchell Starc, DC is a middle and death heavy bowling line-up and that has shown so far. It will be tricky for them to contain Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma — both left-handers were in full flow against CSK — on Tuesday.

SRH vs DC, Hyderabad | Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar, 7.30PM

Learnt how to control my aggression: Boxer Priya

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

IN what was her first major event of her career at the elite level, Priya Ghanghas made heads turn with some jaw-crunching punches that helped her fetch a gold medal during the Asian Championships, recently held at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The boxer from Bhiwani district, who competes in the 60kg category, is beaming with joy at the moment. The gold cemented her status as India's No 1 in the 60kg category for the foreseeable future.

"I had high expectations as I had worked quite hard. I wanted good results. It was a good experience," Priya, who's currently enjoying a downtime with her family at Bhiwani, told this daily.

One of her scalps during the continental event was Yang Chengyu of China, a former world champion who was the No 2 seed. With the right amount of push from the coaches, Priya stunned Yang before going on to capture gold. Upon reflection, Priya said one of her important lessons during her run was dealing with aggression."I learnt how to control my aggression. I generally tend to get a little more aggressive after losing the opening round. Against the Chinese boxer, I had lost the opening round but the coach instructed me to operate in a calm manner, maintain my distance. My aggression may have let me down in the past but this time I returned with a calm mind and it was good. That was one of the things that I learnt during the event," she said.

Now, the Railways boxer is hopeful of maintaining momentum in the months to come. With Commonwealth Games and Asian Games in the calendar this year, the pugilists are expected to return to the grind at the national camp soon. Priya generally trains at SAI, Bhiwani when not in the national camp.

Bhiwani, once termed as the 'Mini Cuba' of India, is renowned for producing many talents in the sport. Vijender Singh, Jaismine Lamboria, Vikas Krishan Yadav, to name a few, are some of the pugilists to have emerged from the region over the years. Those who arrived before her have certainly left a notable impression on her but more recently, boxers from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, considered to be heavyweights in the sport, have also struck her curious mind. "I was impressed with a few boxers from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. I like Javokhir Ummataliev's game, who is from Uzbekistan and competes in 80kg. And I also follow a couple of boxers from Kazakhstan, they are brothers. I'm a fan of one of them — Torekhan Sabyrkhan, who competes in the 70kg(...)." Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Aditi finishes T-51 in JM Eagle Champs in LA

LOS ANGELES: Indian golfer Aditi Ashok couldn't recover from an early triple bogey on the par-4 fifth hole, carding a four-over 76 to finish tied for 51st at the JM Eagle LA Championship. Aditi had just one birdie, two birdies and a triple in her 76 that followed rounds of 70-72-69-76 for a total of 1-under for the week.

Bayern sink Stuttgart to claim Bundesliga title

MUNICH: Harry Kane scored his 32nd goal of the campaign as Bayern Munich cruised to a 4-2 home win over Stuttgart to claim a record-extending 35th Bundesliga title. Raphael Guerreiro, Nicolas Jackson and Alphonso Davies joined Kane on the scoresheet, while Chris Fuehrich and Chema Andres scored for the visitors.

Ex-Afghan pacer Zadran admitted in hospital

NEW DELHI: Former Afghanistan pacer Shapoor Zadran is battling for his life after being diagnosed with Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), a rare and life-threatening disease. Shapoor, 38 is currently admitted to the intensive care unit of a New Delhi hospital, where he has been treated since January.

ISL: Punjab breeze past Inter Kashi to go 7th

LUDHIANA: Goals from Samir Zeljkovic (37'), Effiong Nsungusi (51') and Bede Amarachi Osuji (72') ensured Punjab FC a clinical victory against Inter Kashi in the Indian Super League in Ludhiana on Monday. With this big win, Punjab (14) move to seventh in the league, a point behind Jamshedpur, Bengaluru and East Bengal (15 pts).

Junior, Youth TT Nat'ls: Favourites assert dominance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE opening two rounds of boys team events at the Junior and Youth National Table Tennis Championships Monday largely followed the expected script, with the leading contenders asserting dominance at the New Multipurpose Hall in Dehradun. Group toppers Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam, Maharashtra, PSPBA, Delhi, NCOE, and Haryana all but secured their pre-quarterfinal berths with a round to spare, reinforcing their credentials as strong medal contenders. Most of them progressed with authority, encountering little resistance in the early stages.

CELEBRATING A CHAMPION

Vaishali to take short break after Candidates victory

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

R VAISHALI will start preparing for the World Championships after taking a well earned short break from the circuit. At the felicitation function organised by the Tamil Nadu State Chess Association (TNSCA) for winning the women's Candidates event in Cyprus, the Indian GM also said the one reason why she won was her ability to 'keep defending well in worse positions'.

"It's hard to point one," she said when asked what attribute of hers gave her the crown. "I played decently in all areas. It's very hard to point one. Maybe I was resilient. I didn't give up in some positions. I had some worse positions but I kept defending well."

That's true. In multiple games throughout the tournament, she found herself in tricky situations but she protected her king by employing a lot of tactics or she found resources which allowed her to build middle game pressure. The 24-year-old said that she wasn't sure of winning the tournament, even in the final round. "It was not clear until the last game. It was just wide open. Even in the last round, 5-6 players had a chance to win the tournament," said Vaishali.

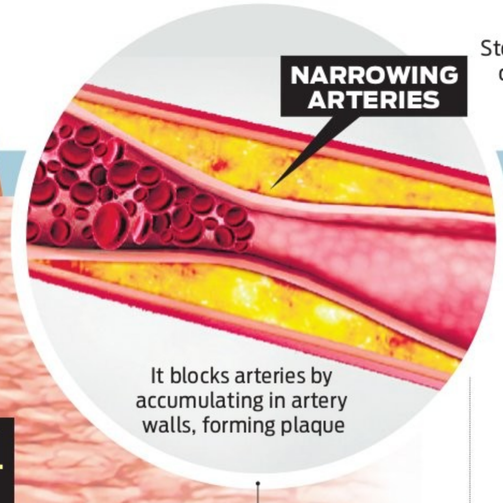
Dr Manickam M (6th from L), president of Tamilnadu State Chess Association, presenting memento to Women's Candidates winner R Vaishali on Monday | EXPRESS

Players may usually break down such a long gruelling event on a day-by-day basis and Vaishali, who featured in her second Candidates, said she adopted a similar strategy. "It's a long tournament," she said. "You just have to take one game at a time. I just tried to focus on that particular game. I had some tough games but I think I always came back thanks to the people who supported me. I found it tough to beat Zhu Jiner. I lost both the games to her. Both the games were interesting but tough ones."

Difficult to say what went wrong: Praggnanandhaa

R Praggnanandhaa was hoping to challenge D Gukesh's world title by winning the open title. But Javokhir Sindarov made it into a procession. "It's difficult to say what went wrong," Pragg, who was also part of the function, said.

"I don't think anyone was close to even catching him at some point. He basically ran away with the tournament. He conceded that some moments didn't go his way. "There were some winning positions which I didn't win. If I had won those (games), then obviously results could have been better."



Stopping medication midway can lead to complications, including rapid rebound of cholesterol levels, creating the risk of cardiac events

MEDICATION FOR MANAGING CONDITION NOT ALWAYS LIFELONG

ANNA JOSE @ Kochi

WHILE lifestyle changes remain important, medications are often required to control cholesterol, especially in high-risk individuals. However, misconceptions about cholesterol-lowering medicines remain a challenge in the treatment and management of the condition.

Often, people tend to choose home remedies over drugs. "Many people are worried that this medicine has to be taken lifelong. Lifelong medication is usually required in patients with heart disease or stroke, or those who have undergone procedures such as angioplasty or bypass surgery, as well as in individuals with genetic conditions like familial hypercholesterolaemia. The dosage can be adjusted according to the suggestion of the physician," said Dr Vinod Thomas, head of the department of cardiology at Rajagiri Hospital, Aluva.

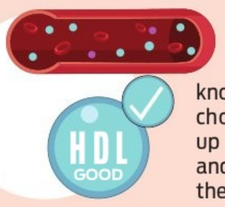
There are three classes of drugs used for lowering cholesterol – statins, ezetimibe and bempedoic acid. Statins inhibit cholesterol production in the liver and are highly effective in lowering cholesterol, particularly LDL levels. Ezetimibe is a molecule or drug that prevents the absorption of cholesterol from the intestine. The third molecule is bempedoic acid, a drug that reduces cholesterol by preventing its synthesis in the liver. "Those who take cholesterol-lowering medicines require frequent monitoring of their blood and symptoms as well. Monitoring LDL and HDL levels at three to six month intervals is important. The dosage can then be adjusted to ensure effective treatment and minimise side effects," he said, adding that whenever a patient is taking a medicine, whether used alone or in combination, it is important to monitor the liver function, muscle enzymes and uric acid every three to six months.

According to Dr Sandip R, senior consultant, interventional cardiologist, Aster Medcity, Kochi, most lipid-lowering agents, especially statins, exert their effect by inhibiting the enzyme HMG-CoA reductase, a key regulator of hepatic cholesterol synthesis. "Abrupt discontinuation of these medications can result in a rapid rebound increase in cholesterol levels, thereby negating prior therapeutic benefit," he said.

Stopping the medicine can also lead to complications, including rebound cholesterol elevation. "It is better to stop medications on the advice of the treating physician. Many times, when the cholesterol level is low and when there is no cardiovascular condition, the doctor may stop the medications depending on the values and lifestyle modifications. Stopping statin or cholesterol-lowering medicine suddenly can lead to an increase in the values in two to three months, creating the risk of cardiac events, cholesterol deposits in the arteries and rupture," Dr Vinod added.

The good and bad

Cholesterol travels through the blood, attached to proteins. This mix of proteins and cholesterol is called lipoprotein. There are various types of cholesterol. The types are based on what the lipoprotein carries. They are:



High-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol. This is known as the "good" cholesterol. HDL picks up extra cholesterol and takes it back to the liver

Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol. This is known as the "bad" cholesterol. LDL carries cholesterol particles throughout the body. "Bad" cholesterol builds up in the walls of arteries. This makes the arteries hard and narrow

A blood test to check cholesterol levels also measures a type of fat in the blood that is not a type of cholesterol, called triglycerides. Having a high triglyceride level also can raise the risk of heart disease. Lifestyle factors that you may be able to control play a role in triglyceride levels.

TOTAL CHOLESTEROL

IDEAL	BORDERLINE	HIGH
Below 200 mg/dl	200–239 mg/dl	240 mg/dl and above

LDL (BAD CHOLESTEROL)

OPTIMAL: Below 100 mg/dl	**BORDERLINE:** 130–159 mg/dl
NEAR OPTIMAL: 100–129mg/dl	**HIGH:** 160 mg/dl and above

HDL (GOOD CHOLESTEROL)

IDEAL (men)	IDEAL (women)	PROTECTIVE
40 mg/dl or higher	50 mg/dl or higher	60 mg/dl or higher

TRIGLYCERIDES

NORMAL	BORDERLINE
Below 150 mg/dl	150–199 mg/dl

HIGH: 200 mg/dl and above

SOME TYPES OF MEDICINES TAKEN FOR OTHER HEALTH CONDITIONS CAN ALSO MAKE CHOLESTEROL LEVELS WORSE. THESE INCLUDE TREATMENTS FOR:

■ Acne ■ Cancer ■ High blood pressure ■ HIV/AIDS ■ Irregular heartbeats ■ Organ transplants

RISK FACTORS

Eating habits: Eating too much saturated fat or trans fats can lead to high cholesterol

Obesity: This complex disease involves having too much body fat

Lack of exercise: Exercise helps boost the body's "good" HDL cholesterol

Smoking: Cigarette smoking may lower the level of HDL

Alcohol: Drinking alcohol can raise total cholesterol

Age: It's more common in people over 40. As you age, your liver becomes less able to remove "bad" LDL cholesterol

(Source: Mayoclinic.com)

Shift in lifestyle habits, diet patterns and lack of exercise are contributing to the rise in coronary artery disease
CHOLESTEROL PLAQUE
Complications
■ With high cholesterol, a dangerous amount of plaque can build up on the walls of arteries – atherosclerosis
■ Over time, the plaque buildup can cause arteries to narrow and block blood flow
■ Less blood flow through the arteries can cause complications such as:
■ CHEST PAIN, ALSO CALLED ANGINA ■ HEART ATTACK ■ STROKE

Manage Cholesterol before it leads to heart attack

ANNA JOSE @ Kochi

AJIT (name changed) was 50-years-old when a check-up revealed high cholesterol values. His total cholesterol was 280 mg/dl and LDL value of 165 mg/dl. When he visited his doctor, he was put on medication quickly considering his lifestyle and comorbidities – he was obese and had high blood pressure and diabetes. He was prescribed medicines to control his cholesterol, blood pressure and sugar.

"Usually, we don't prescribe medicine for cholesterol in the first instance. We usually advise dietary modifications and regular exercise with a follow up lipid profile after two months of lifestyle modification. Here, the patient had diabetes, hypertension, history of smoking, and high cholesterol. His risk profile suggested a 12.8% 10-year risk of heart disease and a 30-year risk of 46%. So he was immediately started on medications. He was also instructed to adopt lifestyle and dietary changes, as he was overweight. The aim was to control the risk factors and reduce his chances of developing heart disease," said Dr Sandeep R, senior interventional cardiologist, Aster Medcity, Kochi.

Ajit stopped smoking, followed his physician's instructions and reduced his LDL to 70 mg/dL with statins and his BMI to 24. His HDL level increased to 40 mg/dl with weight loss, and his blood pressure dropped to around 130 mmHg by cutting down on smoking and with lifestyle changes within three months.

"Multiple studies have shown that by bringing down cholesterol by one mmol/l (millimole per liter), which is 39 mg/dl, we can actually reduce the chance of heart disease and heart disease-related complications by 20-25%. Regular exercise and changes like weight reduction, smoking cessation, and salt restriction helped this patient to reduce cholesterol levels and the risk of future heart disease and stroke," Dr Sandeep pointed out.

Cholesterol is essential for normal body functions, including building cells, helping digestion, nerve function and hormone production. However, excess levels can be harmful and become a major risk factor for heart disease.

"Cholesterol is a component the body needs for functioning. However, when the levels of fats (lipids) in your blood are abnormal, it leads to complications. Earlier, the condition dyslipidaemia was not seen in many people. However, now the number of people diagnosed with high levels of cholesterol is on the rise," said Dr Anu C Kochukunju, consultant physician at the General Hospital, Ernakulam.

The major reason, according to her, is the shift in lifestyle habits, diet patterns, and reduced body movement. "When you consume more calories, it leads to fat deposits," she emphasises.

According to the study – 'Prevalence of coronary artery disease and its risk factors in Kerala, South India: A community-based cross-sectional study' – coronary artery disease is highly prevalent in both urban and rural Kerala. Among the major risk factors, the study found that 52% had high total cholesterol and 39% had low HDL cholesterol. It also highlighted the prevalence of obesity (59%), abdominal obesity (57%), hypertension (28%), diabetes (15%), smoking and physical inactivity, particularly in the urban population. This trend is very alarming and considered to be a major contributor to the rise in coronary artery disease in Kerala .

"If the cholesterol levels are persistently high, it will get deposited in the blood vessels, leading to obstruction and can eventually cause heart attack, stroke and peripheral vascular disease. Thus, primary prevention plays a significant role and trying to keep LDL under 100 mg/dl through dietary changes, exercise and lifestyle modifications is very important step in preventing heart disease," said Dr Sandeep

High cholesterol is largely asymptomatic, which often leads patients to delay diagnosis and discontinue treatment prematurely. "People above 40, especially young people with hypertension and diabetes, should undergo regular checkups. Most of the time, cholesterol levels are tested only when there are complications. One important step is to reduce the consumption of food items that lead to high cholesterol. Sedentary lifestyle and changes in food habits add to the risk. The lifestyle and food habits of adolescents and youngsters should be given priority to catch them young," added Dr Anu.

CONDITIONS THAT CAN CAUSE HIGH CHOLESTEROL

■ Familial hypercholesterolemia ■ Chronic kidney disease ■ Chronic liver disease ■ Diabetes ■ HIV/AIDS ■ Hypothyroidism ■ Lupus ■ Overweight and obesity ■ Sleep apnea

Family history also plays a role

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

Along with lifestyle contributors such as an unhealthy diet, obesity and physical inactivity, genetics or family history also plays a role in cholesterol levels. According to Dr Sandeep R, senior interventional cardiologist, Aster Medcity, Kochi, polygenic (or multifactorial) hypercholesterolaemia is the most common form, accounting for over 90% of cases. It is a common genetic disorder characterised by elevated serum cholesterol levels and aggravated by one or more factors such as atherogenic diet (high saturated fat and cholesterol), obesity, and sedentary lifestyle.

Typically, it presents with mild to moderate elevations in LDL cholesterol and has a gradual onset over time. In contrast, heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia (HeFH) is a less common but clinically significant condition, with a prevalence of approximately 1 in 200–250 individuals. It is caused by a single gene defect — most commonly involving the LDL receptor, apolipoprotein B, or PCSK9 — and is characterised by markedly elevated LDL cholesterol levels from early life, leading to a high risk of premature coronary artery disease."

According to studies, familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH) is a hereditary disorder that causes very high levels of LDL cholesterol from birth. It greatly increases the risk of premature cardiovascular disease and heart attacks if untreated.

Don't stop treatment midway

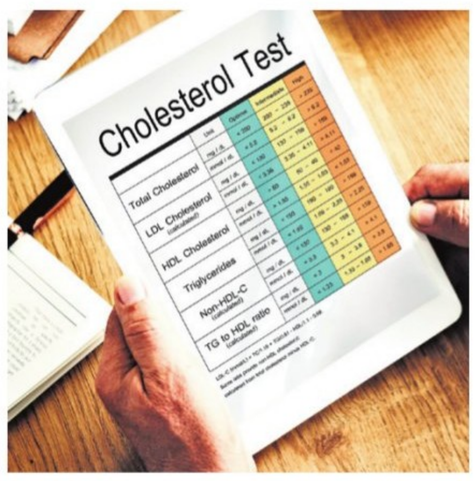
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

DUE to several reasons, including the asymptomatic nature and the price of the medicines, patients tend to stop taking medications, increasing the chances of heart disease and stroke.

"Poor adherence to therapy remains one of the principal reasons for uncontrolled hypercholesterolemia. Many patients either discontinue medications prematurely or fail to initiate treatment at an appropriate stage. This non-compliance is multifactorial, commonly driven by the cost of therapy, inadequate awareness of individual cardiovascular risk, fear of adverse effects, and the widespread influence of misinformation—particularly through social media," said Dr Sandeep R, senior interventional cardiologist, Aster Medcity, Kochi.

Most lipid-lowering agents, especially statins, exert their effect by inhibiting the enzyme HMG-CoA reductase, a key regulator of hepatic cholesterol synthesis. "Abrupt discontinuation of these medications can result in a rapid rebound increase in cholesterol levels, thereby negating prior therapeutic benefit. Regular follow-up with a physician is essential to optimize treatment, address concerns regarding side effects, and enable appropriate dose adjustments, ultimately improving long-term adherence and cardiovascular outcomes," added Dr Sandeep.

The tendency to take over-the-counter medications, without proper consultation and monitoring, is also on the rise, leading to mismanagement of cholesterol levels and high chances of complications.



"Follow-up treatment is very important. The effectiveness of the medicine differs from person to person. Thus, follow-ups every two to three months are significant to see if cholesterol levels are under control. Taking over-the-counter medications cannot help in monitoring cholesterol levels and proper management," said Dr Anu C Kochukunju, consultant physician at the General Hospital, Ernakulam, adding that for people who are at risk or already diagnosed with a heart-related condition or stroke, stopping the medicine will lead to other issues.

Encourage healthy eating, control obesity in kids

WITH more working parents, children often rely on processed foods, sweets, and bakery items instead of balanced meals, says **Dr Tonny Paul Mampilly**, HOD, Paediatrics and Neonatology, Lisie Hospital, Kochi, in an interview with **Anna Jose**. Edited excerpts:

■ How has changing lifestyle affected children's health?

Lifestyle plays a major role in the rising incidence of obesity and cholesterol among children. Sedentary habits, increased screen time, unhealthy food choices, and lack of physical activity are major contributors. In some cases, genetic factors also play a role. With more working parents, children often rely on processed foods, sweets, and bakery items instead of balanced meals. Breastfeeding also matters. These habits increase the risk of obesity, which can lead to hypertension, diabetes, headaches, and high cholesterol at a young age.

■ What steps should be taken if there is a family history?

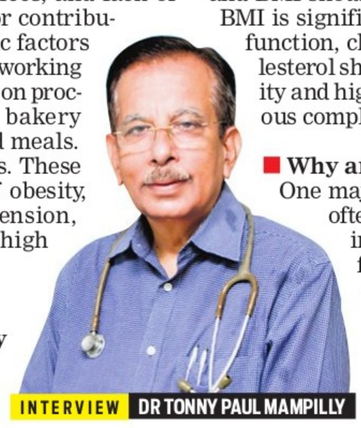
Children with a family history of early heart disease need regular screening. Early detection is the key. Parents should encourage healthy eating habits, limit junk food, promote physical activity and ensure regular health check-ups. Regular screening helps identify endocrine or genetic issues early, allowing timely intervention.

■ How can obesity and cholesterol be prevented?

Prevention begins with lifestyle modification. Reduce screen time, ensure adequate sleep, and encourage outdoor games and sports among children. The height, weight and BMI should be monitored regularly. If BMI is significantly high, tests for thyroid function, cholesterol, diabetes, and cholesterol should be done. Untreated obesity and high cholesterol can lead to serious complications later in life.

■ Why are follow-ups important?

One major challenge is that families often discontinue treatment after initial improvement. Regular follow-ups help doctors monitor progress, motivate children, and ensure long-term lifestyle changes. Schools can also play a role by promoting health awareness and regular check-ups.



INTERVIEW DR TONNY PAUL MAMPILLY

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21•04•2026
TUESDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Elizabeth II's birth

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, officially Elizabeth II, was born in Mayfair, London on April 21, 1926 as the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York

ACCESSION TO THE THRONE

King George VI's health declined and he passed away on February 6, 1952, and Elizabeth II ascended the throne. The first three months of her reign were passed in full mourning

LONGEST REIGN

In 2015, she surpassed Queen Victoria's reign of 63 years and 216 days and became the longest-reigning monarch in British history

DEATH

Queen Elizabeth II died on September 8, 2022 at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, aged 96. Her son, King Charles III, ascended the throne

What's happening in Bengaluru?

PG 2

SUNNY-SIDE UP!

As the city takes a break from its oh-so-cool weather, dressing turns lighter, intuitive and stylish, with experts sharing tips to beat the heat while looking your best

Prajakta Koli looks chic in an easy-breezy casual wear

Vicky Kaushal gives off laidback energy in a crochet shirt and linen trouser

Pooja Hegde in a must-have crop top and faded denim

Final touch

With lighter outfits forming the base, details using accessories and add-ons take centre stage when it comes to styling. Artul's rule is straightforward: keep the outfit simple and let one element stand out. Sunglasses, in particular, seem to be everyone's go-to. "You can elevate simple outfits with belts, scarves, good footwear and a nice bag," says Vishakant. Annidani, however, leans towards subtle gold pieces that complement neutral tones, while adding a refined touch.

ANJALI RAM

With Bengaluru slipping into its annual stretch of sun and sticky afternoons, getting dressed is becoming as much about survival as it is about style. This summer, however, fashion in the city seems to have found a sweet spot – where comfort doesn't come at the cost of looking put-together.

According to experts, if anything, the heat has pushed wardrobes towards a more intuitive and easy kind of dressing, as there is a clear shift across the board towards what many are calling 'effortless' fashion. "This summer is all about relaxed silhouettes and breathable styling. Comfort is leading, but without compromising on style," says fashion content creator Varun Annadani, pointing to a relaxed mood. "Oversized linen shirts, relaxed tailoring and textured fabrics, co-ord sets, sheer layers and silhouettes that don't cling are going to define men's fashion," he says.

Fashionista Cipia Artul agrees, stating, even trends that once felt tricky are being reworked. "Low-rise skirts are coming back but styled in a way that feels fresh, not dated," she adds.

If there is one non-negotiable this season, it is fabric. In a city like Bengaluru, where humidity can derail even the best outfit, what you wear matters as much as how it looks. Linen and cotton remain the obvious favourites, but there is also a growing appreciation for textiles.

"Chanderi and mul cotton are incredible, lightweight but still look polished," says Artul, while Annidani points to seersucker as an underrated option, saying, "It's lightweight, textured, and sits away from the skin, making it ideal for heat. Even a crochet shirt with linen pants feels effortless." For stylist Puja Naik, her picks showcase an ease with linen co-ords, cotton sets, and the ever-reliable combination of denim shorts and a white tee.

"When the fabric breathes, and the styling is effortless, the outfit automatically looks great. It's such a timeless summer outfit that always works," she says. Co-ord sets also remain a favourite this season.

Colour-colour which colour?

Loud, heavy tones are giving way to softer, more forgiving shades. "Lighter shades like whites, soft pastels, beiges and earthy tones like sand tones and washed out pastels really define the season," says Naik. Shreya Vishakant, fashion content creator on the other hand, prefers a more minimal approach, as she states, "I like keeping things basic but elevated – soft pastels with a pop of colour through bags or footwear. Beige linen pants with a butter yellow top are one of my favourite looks"

Fusion it is!

What sets Bengaluru apart, though, is how it blends the traditional with the contemporary. "People are pairing kurtas with denim or relaxed trousers instead of traditional bottoms," says Annidani. Vishakant suggests experimenting with drapes. "I love pairing cotton sarees with crop tops. It gives a modern twist," she says. Naik, too, notes a similar shift towards handloom fabrics in western silhouettes.

Office fashion

Workwear, often the trickiest to get right in summer, is also being rethought this season. Linen trousers, lightweight shirts, co-ord sets and polos are replacing heavier, more rigid options. "A linen blazer... looks sharp without making you feel like you're melting. The idea is to look polished, but not uncomfortable," says Artul. For men, Annidani suggests Polos and lightweight button-down shirts.

Underlying all of this is a shift towards mindful dressing, as there is less emphasis on buying new clothes and more on reworking with what already exists. "It's about reworking with what you have in a lighter, more breathable way. Whether it's wearing shirts open over basics or mixing familiar pieces differently, the approach is practical and sustainable," says Naik.

Kiara Advani adds more than a pop of yellow to her summer fit

Cipia Artul gives a playful touch to her look with tone-gradient round shades

This summer is all about relaxed silhouettes and breathable styling. Comfort is leading, but without compromising on style

Varun Annadani, fashion content creator

With summer on in full swing, these camps will get kids off screens and into crafts, nature, cooking and more

Summer Scenes

WHEN summer holidays kick in and school routines fade, it's easy for kids to slip into lazy distractions. For parents looking to strike the right balance between fun and learning, the city has a range of engaging events to keep young minds active and curious. From nature camps and farm-based detox experiences to baking sessions and theatre workshops, these camps go beyond the usual, encouraging creativity.

Compiled by Nitya Dani

Champ It, Camp It!

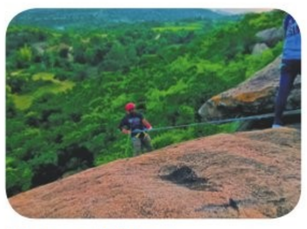
The power of nature inspires, educates and sparks curiosity in young minds. This summer, swap screens for the wild at the Bandipur Mudumalai Wildlife Camp. The camps blends exploration with skill-building and lots of fun. Mudumalai offers jungle safaris, wildlife tracking, chocolate making, stargazing and more. With a pickup and drop to and fro Bengaluru, these residential programmes are designed to build confidence, independence and environmental awareness.

AGE: 10 to 17 years
WHEN: April 27 to May 1
WHERE: Mudumalai Wildlife Camp
PRICE: ₹22,000
DETAILS: 94484 76888/ frolicboonies.com

Handmade Wonders

Help your kids rediscover the joy of creating wonders with their own hands through workshops designed to help them focus, create and unwind. Whether it is an engineer's pottery to understand the physics of clay or exploring fibre arts, weaving and heritage sketching, kids end up with clean, distraction-free environments that foster clarity and calm. They also offer collaborative sessions that encourage shared ideas and co-creation.

AGE: 4 to 14 years
WHEN: April 30 to May 10
WHERE: Hobby Ghar, Seshadripuram
PRICE: ₹1,699
CALL: 95355 55644



Natural Detox

Beyond the classroom lies The Ultimate Nature Farm Detox. With a residential summer experience designed as a total 'school detox,' your child can trade their textbooks for the soil and their tablets for the stars. Set on a 50-acre expanse where hills meet the lake, the camp operates on a strict digital detox policy to ensure every child engages with their surroundings and peers. From zip line, Burma bridge and white water rafting to treasure hunts, tug of war and target shooting to an introduction to organic farming and drip irrigation to more.

AGE: 8 to 18 Years
WHEN: May 4 to 7; May 12 to 15
WHERE: Nature Trails Kanakapura
PRICE: ₹12,000
CALL: 94296 92788

Splish, Splash!

Amidst the tranquil Sharavathy backwaters near Jog Falls, this 'Fun & Creative' summer camp is designed for children and teenagers to explore nature and build new skills. Kids will spend 4 days and 5 nights exploring and taking part in engaging activities.

AGE: 10 to 18 years
WHEN: April 23, May 7, May 21 June 11, June 25
WHERE: Near Jog Falls (Sharavathy Backwaters)
PRICE: ₹15,000, inclusive of food, stay and activities
CALL: 98450 47991

Theatre & Beyond

Through games, improvisation and storytelling exercises, children get a hands-on experience of the joy of theatre. Designed to help them explore acting, voice and movement, the camp introduces participants to script-building, character creation and narrative thinking, helping them sharpen imagination and communication skills in the process. Sessions will focus on body language, vocal techniques and collaborative exercises.

AGE: Varies as per workshop **WHEN:** Till May 3
WHERE: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar **PRICE:** ₹10,000 for standard workshops; ₹3,000 for cooking workshops
DETAILS: programming@rangashankra.in

Lil Chefs

This summer, watch your kids dive hands-first into the delicious world of cooking, where every recipe is an adventure. Here, children do more than just bake; they touch, taste, question and understand what goes into their food. The camp offers a five-day baking experience for children, where they learn to bake from scratch, work directly with ingredients by measuring, mixing, cutting, rolling, shaping and baking. With all recipes being vegetarian, kids will learn to bake cookies, pies and jam, savoury breads, chocolate treats and finally, bake and decorate their own cake.

AGE: 5+ **WHEN:** May 1-5 **WHERE:** Doughpamine Lab, Brookfield
PRICE: **CALL:** 96861 27160

CITY READ

New jewellery boutique opens in city

Evol Jewels, run by Nimesh Jain, Sanjana Jain and Disha Jain from Hyderabad, opened its first Bengaluru outlet in a star hotel last Friday. The 400sqft space uses lab-grown diamonds and precious metals for rings, sapphire pieces, emeralds and more. It includes an AI tool for preference mapping and areas for consultations, believing in an experience-led approach to jewellery retail. The decision to enter Bengaluru was driven by an audience that is both design-aware and open to retail formats.

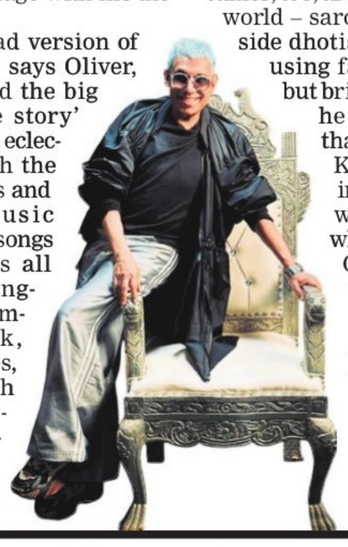
Old Love for New Eyes

Kevin Oliver's pop opera musical, *Odyssey of Love*, is set to take the classical story of Shakuntala to a new level

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

THE story of Shakuntala and Dushyanta is an age-old one. Whether you've read it in the *Mahabharata* or as Kalidasa's *Abhijnanashakuntalam*, odds are, you've seen or heard some iteration of the tale – a rishi's beautiful daughter falling in love with a handsome king and marrying him, only to be cursed that her love would forget her. His recognition depends on the ring adorning her finger, but fate plays cruel tricks on the lovers before finally allowing them to reunite after years of separation. It's this 'fabulous Indian fairytale' that director and writer **Kevin Oliver** is set to bring to the stage with his theatrical twist.

"It's my mad version of Shakuntala," says Oliver, who has 'used the big bones of the story' but created an eclectic world with the sets, costumes and original music with about 81 songs in total. "It's all written in English but encompasses rock, pop, jazz, blues, mixed in with classical dancing. It's an opera, so it's songs from beginning to end. The costumes, too, are from all over the world – sarongs right alongside dhotis and lungis. I'm using fashion as a tool, but bringing in art too," he says, revealing that artist Raghava KK will be creating a 17-metre-long work for the show, while C Krishniah Chetty & Co will be providing antique jewellery for some performers.

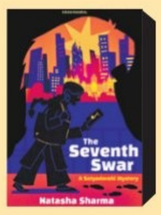


Oliver made a comeback in Bengaluru last year after a 30-year absence with sold-out shows of Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*', which he had originally staged as a teacher in the city. *Odyssey of Love*, too, was written during his time in Dubai 20 years ago.

"I had done so much of Weber's stuff and everyone else's musicals, and was travelling around the world when one of the principals at the school said, 'Why are you looking for so many things? Write your own stuff and base it on a fairy tale from India. There are thousands of stories that haven't been seen around the world.' That got me thinking," he explains, adding, "I initially performed it with a choir. Ten years later, I got to take it to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with a bunch of high school kids and we revamped the show into an opera. We even won an award for it. Since then, I've been dying to do it in India." The revamped show – funds from which will go towards a charitable organisation for children – sounds different from the original, explains Oliver, adding, "It's been updated – we've reworked the arrangements, thrown in a lot of instrumentation (live keyboards and drums). Hopefully, the young theatre-music lover falls in love with the story."

(Odyssey of Love will be staged on May 7, 8 and 9. Tickets on bookmyshow.com)

BOOK NOOK

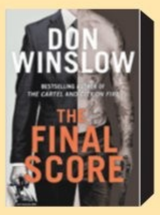


The Seventh Swar
by Natasha Sharma

What begins as a murder investigation spirals into a puzzle of music, history and buried truths stretching back to Ashoka's time. As Satyadarshi follows the clues, she finds herself caught in a conspiracy that feels uncomfortably close to home.

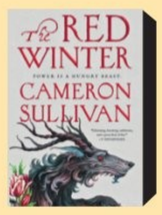
The Complex
by Karan Mahajan

In a powerful Delhi family built on political legacy, loyalty and ambition begin to pull in opposite directions. As secrets surface and the country shifts around them, the Chopras are forced to confront what their power has really cost them.



The Final Score
by Don Winslow

An impossible heist anchors a set of stories about crime, chance and bad decisions. Each one closes in on the same question, how much can a single choice cost?



The Red Winter
by Cameron Sullivan

A legendary hunter returns to face the monster that nearly killed him once before. But as the land edges toward chaos, the real danger lies in everything the hunt stirs back to life.

SHOW OF STROKES

Visitors look at vibrant landscapes painted by artist Chandramohan Kulkarni at his ongoing solo exhibition at the Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

NOWSTREAMING

REGIONAL

TOASTER (Hindi)

A miserly man tries to retrieve a toaster he gifted a couple, who called off their wedding, but is inadvertently drawn into murder.

Cast: Rajkumar Rao, Sanya Malhotra, Archana Puran Singh

- **Watch on:** Netflix

ASSI (Hindi)

A courtroom drama that centers on unexplained sexual assault cases. An investigator and defense team fight to reveal shocking truths hidden beneath statistics and uncover the human cost behind the headlines.

Cast: Taapsee Pannu, Revathy, Mohd Zeeshan Ayub

- **Watch on:** ZEE5

FOREIGN

MARGO'S GOT MONEY TROUBLES (English, series)

The daughter of a former Hooter's waitress and an ex-pro wrestler, Margo is a recent college dropout and aspiring writer. Faced with a new baby, mounting pile of bills, and dwindling number of ways to pay them, Margo must find a way forward.

Cast: Elle Fanning, Michelle Pfeiffer, Nicole Kidman, Nick Offerman

- **Watch on:** Apple TV+

SUBSCRIPTION

Netflix :	₹ 199/month
Prime Video:	₹ 299/month
Jio Cinema:	₹ 999/year
Disney+ Hotstar:	₹ 899/year
Zee5 :	₹ 699/year
Viki Rakuten:	₹ 299/month
Aha:	₹ 699/year
SonyLIV:	₹ 299/month

FITBIT

BUILD OR NEGLECT: WHY YOUR 20S DECIDE YOUR 40S

Your 40s are a reflection of your 20s habits. What you build or fail to care for during this decade directly shapes your metabolism, strength and disease risk later in life.

1. YOUR 20S BUILD THE FOUNDATION

Your 20s are when you reach peak muscle mass, bone density and metabolic efficiency. What you build now becomes your long-term baseline. Therefore, building a training routine where you work 2-3 days a week will help you delay your age-related muscle loss.

2. EARLY HABITS PREDICT FUTURE DISEASE RISK

Focus on making daily habits around mainly five things – daily movement, balanced nutrition, quality sleep, stress management and avoiding smoking or excess alcohol.

3. SMALL DECLINES NOW LEADS TO BIG CONSEQUENCES LATER

Even a slight drop in health markers (like fitness or weight control) in your 20s-30s significantly increases future risk. Therefore, aim for consistency rather than perfection.

4. AGEING ACCELERATES IN YOUR 40S

The body undergoes rapid biological changes around the mid-40s, including metabolic slowdown and increased disease risk. Build a foundation that is stronger and ready for the changes.

5. MUSCLE LOSS AND METABOLISM DECLINE START EARLY

Muscle mass begins declining after your mid-30s, slowing metabolism and increasing fat gain. Build and maintain muscle early so that the loss does not affect your body's health.

6. LIFESTYLE DEBT CATCHES UP FAST

Poor sleep, stress, inactivity and inconsistent eating may feel manageable in your 20s but they compound over time.

7. PREVENTION IS EASIER THAN CORRECTION

Experts emphasise that early healthy habits mean less damage to reverse later. You can start this foundation even through small and simple changes.

Your 20s aren't just about looking fit. They're about building a resilient body for life. Train, eat, and recover like your future depends on it because it absolutely does.

By Dhruva Sivakumar, fitness expert, cult – a fitness and wellness platform

QUICKFIX

HONEY SOY CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS

- **Chicken thigh:** 375g (boneless), bite-sized
- **Honey and oyster sauce:** 1 tbsp
- **Vinegar, olive oil, and chilli sauce:** 1.5 tsp
- **Cornstarch slurry:** 0.75 tsp cornstarch mixed with 1.5 tsp water
- **Soy sauce:** 2.5-3 tbsp
- **Garlic:** 2-3 cloves, mashed

METHOD

- In a bowl, combine mashed garlic, soy sauce, honey, oyster sauce, vinegar and chilli sauce. Separate half of this marinade and set it aside.
- Toss the chicken pieces in the remaining marinade and refrigerate for 15 minutes.
- Heat olive oil in a pan over medium heat. Pan fry the chicken until cooked through and caramelised, then remove from the pan.
- In the same pan, pour the reserved marinade and the cornstarch slurry. Stir for 1-2 minutes until the sauce thickens and turns glossy.
- Return the chicken to the pan and toss to coat evenly. Serve hot over steamed rice, garnished with sesame seeds and spring onions.

Contributed by **Jia Khosla,** Bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Party it up

Light up your Tuesday night at Tease Tuesday with DJ Veejay. A party that will keep you moving for hours on a night out with friends.

WHEN: April 21, 8pm | **WHERE:** No Limmits Lounge And Club, Brigade Road | **DETAILS:** district.in

Laughter Night

End the night right with some comic relief and humour that stays the whole week. Jokes, food and a crowd that laughs out loud to jokes by comics Gautham Govindan, Anand Rathnam, Somnath Padhy and Joteen Patro.

WHEN: April 21, 9pm

WHERE: Ministry Of Comedy, Koramanagla

DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Potter in Town

Enjoy a relaxing escape from your daily routine. The beginner-friendly pottery workshop helps you make your own pottery wonders by teaching you essential skills like hand-building, wheel throwing and shaping raw clay.

WHEN: April 21,11am

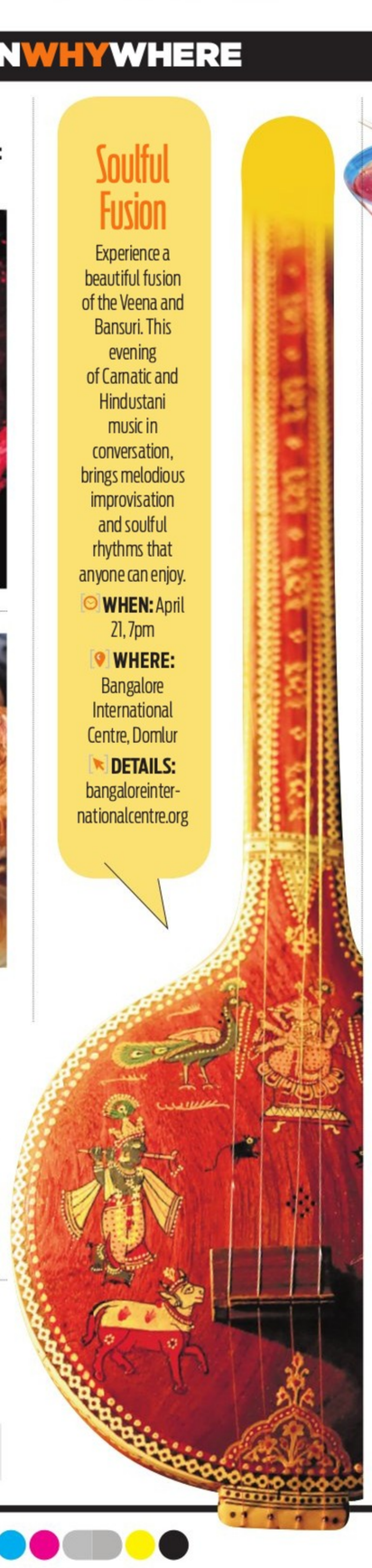
WHERE: Maya's Pottery, LIC Colony

CALL: 73384 10009

Mapped by Art

Attend a presentation by architect Priya Joseph as she presents a playful yet political understanding of Karnataka's river Netravati, an ecologically-sensitive region – analysing the industrial ruins left by humans, the river and its relationship to its soil.

WHEN: April 21, 6pm | **WHERE:** MAP, Kasturba Road | **DETAILS:** map-india.org



Soulful Fusion

Experience a beautiful fusion of the Veena and Bansuri. This evening of Carnatic and Hindustani music in conversation, brings melodious improvisation and soulful rhythms that anyone can enjoy.

WHEN: April 21, 7pm

WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur

DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Summer Refreshed

Experience a thoughtfully-curated selection of summer cocktails and mocktails with a menu highlighting seasonal ingredients and innovative techniques, featuring citrus-forward refreshers, herbaceous infusions and spirit-led classics.

WHEN: April 21 onwards, 12.30pm onwards

WHERE: Shangri-La, Palace Road

CALL: 91084 35545

Tuesday Theatre

Visit a space for every movie enthusiast. Join the screening of *Shinjuku Boys*, a documentary exploring the lives of three transgender men who work as hosts at a night club. The film explores their romantic lives, relationship with their parents, perspectives on their own gender, and the lived reality of transgender people in Japan.

WHEN: April 21, 7pm

WHERE: Underline Centre, Domlur

DETAILS: district.in

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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ARTCORNER

SHADES OF NATURE

Artist Jagadish Chinthala's artworks have a loving social commentary and compelling dramatic narrative

WILL HYBRID CARS TAKE THE FAST LANE?

Though it is still early to say that the age of internal combustion engine is coming to an end, the embracing of hybrid vehicles signal a shift in consumer interest

LAKSHMI C PILLAI

THE tightening of emission norms has upended the long dominance of petrol and diesel vehicles, paving the way for greener alternatives. Yet, it would be premature to declare the end of the internal combustion engine, as the alternatives are far from flawless.

Consider CNG cars, often seen as the cheapest substitute for diesel. Limited power and the patchy availability of fuelling stations have largely confined them to the taxi segment. The loss of boot space to accommodate cylinders has also proved a deterrent for private buyers.

Electric vehicles, meanwhile, come with their own set of concerns. Outside major cities, charging infrastructure remains inadequate. This is still the elephant in the room. Even where available, long charging times, limited battery life, and persistent range anxiety continue to hold buyers back.

Against this backdrop, hybrid vehicles, combining petrol engines with electric motors, are gaining traction. Maruti Suzuki and Toyota are clear leaders in the segment.

Mid-size SUVs such as the Maruti Grand Vitara and Toyota Hyryder dominate, alongside MPVs like the Toyota Innova Hycross, and its Maruti counterpart, the Invicto. At the premium end sit models like the Toyota Camry, Vellfire and offerings from Lexus.

The reign of Toyota

Toyota has been at the forefront of India's hybrid push. As stringent emission norms curtailed diesel's appeal, hybrids emerged as a viable alternative, offering both efficiency and relative affordability. The evolution of the Innova illustrates this shift.

BS6 Phase 2 norms and restrictions on diesel vehicles in the Delhi-NCR region dealt a blow to diesel MPVs like the Innova. Today, the diesel-powered Innova Crysta is limited to non-premium manual variants, largely catering to fleet operators.

Toyota addressed the gap with the Innova Hycross, offered in both petrol and strong hybrid variants, with the latter seeing higher demand. With diesel production expected to wind down, Hycross sales are likely to rise further.

The Toyota-Suzuki global partnership has further strengthened India's hybrid ecosystem. It enabled Maruti Suzuki to enter the segment in a big way, while allowing Toyota to scale its hybrid technology across higher volumes. Models such as the Innova Hycross, Hyryder, Maruti Invicto, and Grand Vitara are produced at Toyota Kirloskar Motors' Bidadi plant, while the Victoris is manufactured at Maruti Suzuki's Haryana facility.

The Bidadi plant was among the first in India to produce hybrid vehicles. The next major entrant is expected to be the Renault Duster Hybrid, slated for a festive-season launch.

XPRESS HIGHWAY
SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

The technology

Hybrid cars pair a petrol engine with a battery-powered electric motor. Unlike full EVs, the battery and motor are smaller and designed to assist rather than replace the engine.

Typically, a hybrid starts in electric mode, with the petrol engine kicking in at higher speeds. Toyota and Suzuki claim that 50-60 per cent of city driving can be achieved in electric mode. Renault, for its upcoming Duster Hybrid, claims this figure could be as high as 80 per cent.

At lower speeds and in stop-go traffic, hybrids consume less fuel. At higher speeds, the petrol engine takes over, aided by the electric motor for better power and torque.

The battery charges itself through engine operation and regenerative braking, recovering energy otherwise lost during deceleration. Unlike EVs, hybrids do not have a separate electric-only range; efficiency is measured in overall fuel economy.

Compared to pure petrol variants, hybrids offer significantly better mileage, often comparable to refined diesel engines.

On highways, however, diesel cars still hold an edge. Hybrid systems, paired with e-CVT transmissions, are better suited to calm, urban driving. This is where most private vehicles spend their time.

The economics

Hybrid variants come at a premium over their petrol counterparts. In the mid-size SUV segment, hybrid prices are often comparable to top-end diesel variants, making them a viable alternative for buyers with higher running needs.

For monthly usage below 1,000-1,200 km, petrol cars remain the more economical choice.

Under the upcoming CAFE-3 norms, one hybrid vehicle is counted as equivalent to two conventional petrol or diesel cars (while an EV counts as three). This incentivises manufacturers to expand their hybrid and EV portfolios to meet fleet emission targets.

As diesel gradually fades, as seen with the Innova, hybrids are emerging as a practical middle path. They eliminate range anxiety without requiring charging infrastructure.

However, hybrids are best understood not as a fusion of EV and petrol car, but as petrol vehicles enhanced by an electric assist system.

Setting the bar high
Recently, Toyota Kirloskar Motor celebrated 2-lakh sales milestone of Innova Hycross in India

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

NEW RELEASE

HYUNDAI ANNOUNCES CRETA SUMMER EDITION

Hyundai Motor India Limited has announced the summer edition variants of Creta, which features a host of technology and convenience enhancements. Notable features include a 26.03cm multi-display digital cluster, surround view monitor, and dashcam, further enhancing safety and driving confidence. Hyundai Creta summer edition is available in six variants and prices range from ₹12,05,900 to ₹17,88,900 (ex-showroom).

THEGREENMANUAL

WHY MOST INDOOR PLANTS DIE

Dr Ekta Chaudhary
The writer is the founder of Garden Up and is a leading expert in urban landscaping and plant ecology

From money plants climbing living room shelves to large fiddle leaf figs decorating restaurant corners, greenery indoors is now associated with comfort, wellness and aesthetic appeal. Yet, a surprising number of indoor plants fail within a few months. In most cases, it is because their basic environmental needs are misunderstood.

Right light

The most common reason is insufficient light. Many popular plants are actually tropical understory plants, meaning they naturally grow beneath forest canopies where light is filtered. Plants such as Epipremnum aureum (Money Plant), Monstera deliciosa, and Aglaonema tolerate low light conditions and therefore adapt better to indoor environments. Other plants like Ficus lyrata (Fiddle Leaf Fig) and Ficus elastica (Rubber Plant) grow in open tropical forests and prefer bright conditions. Without sufficient light, their leaves turn yellow or drop entirely.

In Indian homes, the best indoor plant positions are near east-facing or south-facing windows where plants receive morning sunlight.

Overwatering

Decorative containers without drainage holes trap moisture. When soil remains constantly wet, oxygen around the roots disappear, leading to root rot. Plants such as Sansevieria (Snake Plant), Zamioculcas zamiifolia (ZZ Plant) and Aloe vera evolved in dry environments and store water in their leaves or roots – should only be watered once the soil has dried out completely.

In contrast, tropical plants such as Peace Lily (Spathiphyllum), Ferns and Calathea prefer slightly moist soil but still require good drainage. Allowing water to collect at the bottom of pots can quickly damage their root systems.

Low humidity indoors

Indoor air is drier than outdoor air, especially in AC spaces. Plants such as Calathea, Maidenhair Fern (Adiantum) and Anthurium are sensitive to dry air. When humidity drops too low, their leaves develop brown edges or curled tips. In cities like B'luru, these plants perform well. Grouping plants together, placing them on trays with pebbles and water, or misting foliage can help improve humidity levels.

Poor soil and containers

Indoor plants struggle when grown in compact or poorly draining soil. Many plants are sold in nursery soil mixes designed for quick growth and transport rather than long-term health. Over time, this soil becomes dense, limiting airflow around roots. Repotting plants into a well-draining mix containing garden soil, cocopeat, and compost can significantly improve plant health.

Choosing right

Indoor plants that adapt to low-light conditions include:

- Snake Plant: Tolerant to low light and irregular watering
- ZZ Plant: Thrives in offices and low-light interiors
- Money Plant: Fast growing and adaptable
- Areca Palm: Excellent for bright indoor spaces
- Dracaena marginata: Tolerant of varying indoor conditions

SMARTADS

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MANOHAR. M. C,** S/o G.S. Chandre Gowda, Aged about 50 years, Residing at Melur Village and Post, Shidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, Karnataka-562102. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **MANOHARA. M. C** to **MANOHAR. M. C,** Vide Affidavit dated 15.04.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary K. Ramegowda, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I,Praveenkumar Upasi S/o Shivananda Upasi, R/at No.531, Gandhi Circle, Saunshi, Kundgol, Dharwad-581117, Camp at Kengeri, Bengaluru do hereby solemnly state that I have changed my name from **PRAVEENKUMAR SHIVANANDA UPASI** (Old Name) to **PRAVEENKUMAR UPASI** (New Name) vide affidavit dated 18.04.2026 sworn to Notary Ravi.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, K. SACHIDANANDA MURTHY alias KRISHNA MURTHY SACHIDANANDA alias SACHIDANANDA MURTHY KRISHNAMURTHY alias SACHIDANANDA K S/o Late Sri D Krishna Murthy, age 68 years, R/at F 1201, Peninsula Heights, 17th Main, Behind Central Mall, J.P.Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-560 078 do hereby declare that all the names i.e. **K. SACHIDANANDA MURTHY alias KRISHNA MURTHY SACHIDANANDA alias SACHIDANANDA MURTHY KRISHNAMURTHY alias SACHIDANANDA K** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **K. SACHIDANANDA MURTHY alias KRISHNA MURTHY SACHIDANANDA MURTHY** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 18-04-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **SHASHIDEVI M.P.** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SERVICE No.15330296K, HAV, TRINADHARAO TARRA, residing at Paddavelama Street, Tilaru (Vill & Post), Kotabommali (Tk), Srikakulam (Dist), ANDHRA PRADESH (State), PIN: 532474, Have Changed my name **(OLD NAME) TRINADHARAO TARRA** to **(NEW NAME) TARRA TRINADHARAO** Vide Affidavit Dated 16.04.2026 Sworn Before Notary S.I. BALAGURU BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MUNIRAJU S V**, aged about 41years, S/o.Sri.Venkatachalaiah, Smt. **ANUPAMA G**, W/o Muniraju S V, both are Residing at No.38, Near Government School, Soladevanahalli Post, Bangalore Rural-562130. Have Changed our son's Name from **(Old Name) SRUJAN to (New Name) SRUJAN M G**, for all purposes vide affidavit dated 16-04-2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary V.Anjinappa, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **INDU PERIWAL**, W/o. ANURAG PERIWAL, Residing at VRR Golden Enclave B-05 Villa, Hulimangala Main Road, Jigani Anekal, Bangalore - 560 105, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **INDU** to **INDU PERIWAL** vide affidavit dated 18.04.2026 sworn before C.N. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **G YARREPPA,** aged about 36 years & **G LAKSHMI,** aged about 34 years, both Residing at, No.101, Ground Floor, 4th Cross, Opp Kangrace, Magadi Road, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560023, have changed our Minor's Son's Name from **G MOUNESH (Old Name),** to **G RAYAN (New Name),** (D.O.B.-10.06.2013), vide Affidavit dated:15-04-2026, Sworn before Notary, Veena. K, Bengaluru, for all Official & Future Purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RAMA DEVI alias GUMMARAJU RAMA DEVI alias RAMADEVI GOPAL RAO GUMMARAJU D/o Late Sri Gopal Rao Gummaraju, age 68 years, R/at F 1201, Peninsula, 17th Main, Behind Central Mall, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-560 078 do hereby declare that all the names **i.e.RAMA DEVI alias G RAMA DEVI alias GUMMARJU RAMA DEVI alias RAMADEVI GOPAL RAO GUMMARAJU alias Dr. RAMA DEVI SACHIDANANDA** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **G RAMA DEVI alias GUMMARAJU RAMA DEVI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 18-04-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **SHASHIDEVI M.P.** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) SARASWATHI,** mother of No.15330296K, HAV, TRINADHARAO TARRA, residing at Paddavelama Street, Tilaru (Vill & Post), Kotabommali (Tk), Srikakulam (Dist), ANDHRA PRADESH (State), PIN: 532474, Have Changed my name to **(NEW NAME) TARRA SARASWATHI** And **DOB** from **01.07.1958** to **01.01.1960** Vide Affidavit Dated 16.04.2026 Sworn Before Notary S.I.BALAGURU BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ARSHAD MOOSA** Residing at Tower 1, 12th Floor, Flat 1124, Prestige Gulmohar Apt, Horamavu Main Road, Bengaluru 560043 Holder Passport No: B7644459 have changed my minor Child name from **HUDA FATHIMA ARSHAD** (Old Name) to **HUDA FATHIMA** (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 20/4/2026 Before Notary **Idnabba** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mrs. SEEMA MADHUKAR RAJHANS,** Aged about 65 years, W/o.Madhukar Haribhau Rajhans, resident of #107, 10th Cross, BDS Garden, Hennur Main Road, Geddalahalli, Bangalore North, Dr. SRK Nagar Post, Bangalore, Karnataka -560077, have changed my name from **SEEMA RAJHANS to SEEMA MADHUKAR RAJHANS,** for all purposes vide Affidavit dated 20/04/2026, sworn before,D.Rajanna, Advocate and Notary, K. Narayanapura, Bangalore-560077

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mr. BASIL PUTHUSSERIL SONY,** Aged about 33 years, S/o. Sony Jacob, resident of I-903, Rohan Upavan, Kyalasanahalli, Avalahalli Main Road, Hennur, Kothanur, Bangalore, Karnataka -560 077, have changed my name from **BASIL P SONY to BASIL PUTHUSSERIL SONY,** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 20/04/2026, sworn before D. RAJANNA, Advocate and Notary, K.Narayanapura, Bangalore-560077.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PREMA LATHA. A., aged about 60 years, W/o Selvaraj. D., R/o. No. 170 - B, 2nd Block, 3rd Stage, 3rd E Cross, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru–560079. I have Changed My Name from PREMA.A. To PREMA LATHA.A. Vide Affidavit Dated 17-04-2026, Sworn Before Notary B. Prasanna, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, GOWRI PREM, Aged about 43 years, W/o. Prem Naidu, residing at No.50, 7th B Main Road, Near SBI INTOUCH, 4th Block Jayanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560011, India, declare that I have changed the name of my Minor Daughter from **VAISHNAVI DEVI PREM (Old Name)** to **VAISHNAVI PREM (New Name),** henceforth my Daughter shall be known and called as **VAISHNAVI PREM (New Name)** only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 20-04-2026 before H.S. DHARMA PRASAD, at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) APPALASURI,** father of No.15330296K, HAV, TRINADHARAO TARRA, residing at Paddavelama Street, Tilaru (Vill & Post), Kotabommali (Tk), Srikakulam (Dist), ANDHRA PRADESH (State), PIN: 532474, Have Changed my name to **(NEW NAME) TARRA APPALASURI** And **DOB** from **01.07.1953** to **01.01.1947** Vide Affidavit Dated 16.04.2026 Sworn Before Notary S.I.BALAGURU BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MOSIHIN KHAN** (Old Name) S/o **MAHMOOD KHAN** Residing at No 5, Harris Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru – 560005 and Holder Passport No: N2740807 have changed my name to **MOHSIN KHAN** (New Name) vide affidavit dated:20/4/2026 Before Notary **Idnabba** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANURAG PERIWAL**, S/o. JAGDISH PRASAD PERIWAL, Residing at VRR Golden Enclave B-05 Villa, Hulimangala Main Road, Jigani Anekal, Bangalore - 560 105, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ANURAG JAGDISH PRASAD PERIWAL** to **ANURAG PERIWAL** vide affidavit dated 18.04.2026 sworn before C.N. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **ANURAG PERIWAL** (Father), **INDU PERIWAL** (Mother), being legal parents of our Son SAMARTH PERIWAL (New Name), SAMARTH (Old Name), Aged 12 years, presently Residing at VRR Golden Enclave B-05 Villa, Hulimangala Main Road, Jigani Anekal, Bangalore-560 105, do hereby declare that we have changed our son name from **SAMARTH** to **SAMARTH PERIWAL** vide affidavit dated 20.04.2026 sworn before C.N. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

DECLARATION
I, SOBHANAN S, father of No. 16126868 P NK DINITH S, Kavuvilaveedu Sivanmukku, Madathara, Kollam Dist, Kerala State, Pin: 691541, have changed My Date of Birth from **25.10.1958 to 23.11.1957,** vide affidavit dated 10.04.2026 sworn before Notary S.I. Balaguru, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, UMADEVI.T.D @ UMADEVI THINDLU DEVARAJ, D/o Devaraj.T.K, W/o Jagadish.A, age 36 years, R/at No.102 Threenethra Nilaya, Vinayakanagar, Hagadur, Whitefield Post, Bangalore-560066 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **UMADEVI.T.D.** to **UMA.D,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **UMA.D** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 10-04-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **V. SRINIVASA REDDY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **JYOTHI ARVIND PANDYA** D/o **ARAVIND PANDYA** (FATHER) and **MEENAXI ARVIND KUMAR PANDYA** (Mother) W/o **JAYESH PANDYA,** resident of No. 39, Ambuja Nilayam, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main, AECS 3rd Stage, Sanjaynagar, Bangalore North, RMV Extension II Stage, Bengaluru Karnataka 560094,, holding Indian Passport Number G166922, have changed my name from **JYOTHI ARVIND PANDYA** to **JYOTHI PANDYA** (Real and Final Name) sworn vide affidavit dated 18-04-2026 before Notary **R BASAVARAJA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ARSHAD MOOSA** Residing at Tower 1, 12th Floor, Flat 1124, Prestige Gulmohar Apt, Horamavu Main Road, Bengaluru 560043 Holder Passport No: B7641677 have changed my minor Child name from **RIDA ZAINAB ARSHAD** (Old Name) to **RIDA ZAINAB** (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 20/4/2026 Before Notary **Idnabba** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANITHA,** W/o.Gadilingappa K, Aged about 28 years, an Indian Citizen by birth and residing at No.828, Ward No.3 Kere, Near Yellamma Temple, Sreedharagadda, Ballari, Karnataka-583103, hereby declare that **ANITHA HOSAMANI and ANITHA** All the names belong to one and the same person i.e., myself only. And continue my name in future as **ANITHA** Vide Affidavit dated 18/04/2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary Mamatha. N.K, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHEIK MOHAMAD KHAYUM,** S/o. ABDUL AZIZ, Residing at Nethajinagara, Koppa Taluk, Chikamangaluru - 577 126, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **KAYUM** to **SHEIK MOHAMAD KHAYUM** vide affidavit dated 18.04.2026 sworn before C.N. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RITU HANDA**, W/o. MANAV HANDA, Residing at Allanoville B-17, Hennur Bagaluru Road, N Divine Mercy School, Chikkagubbi, Bangalore - 562 149, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RITTU VIG** to **RITU HANDA** vide affidavit dated 18.04.2026 sworn before C.N. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

I believe good times are ahead: Sujay Shastry

Director and actor Sujay Shastry reflects on his latest film, *Elra Kaaleliyatte Kaala*, which is set to hit screens on April 24. The film turns a simple idea about time into a simple, grounded narrative, bringing together a strong cast, including rapper-turned-actor Chandan Shetty in the lead role

A SHARADHAA

There's a certain poetry in timing, and for director Sujay Shastry, that poetry has shaped both life and cinema. His upcoming film *Elra Kaaleliyatte Kaala* borrows its title from a well-known proverb. This proverb, which also echoes as a memorable line from a song in Upendra's *Uppi 2*, is deeply rooted in the idea that time spares no one.

But for Sujay, this isn't just a thematic choice; it's a lived experience. "Sometimes, what we think will not happen at that particular time. Though we surrender to time, it will never surrender to us, and there is always a purpose. There is a list of incidents like this that have happened to me and to everybody. We never realise how time has pulled us—but that's exactly what my film tries to capture."

A still from the film

It's fitting then that *Elra Kaaleliyatte Kaala* arrives in theatres on April 24, marking the birth anniversary of the legendary Dr Rajkumar. The release date adds emotional weight to a film already shaped by delays, hurdles, and a long wait—even for certification. Yet, Sujay chooses not to resent time. Instead, he embraces it. "I value time. I believe good times are ahead, especially now, with the film finally releasing."

Written by Rajguru Hosakote, the film features rapper-turned-actor Chandan Shetty in the lead, alongside Archana Kottige, Dattatreya, Tara, Mandya Ramesh, the late Rakesh Pujary, Manju Pavagada, and Mahantesh Hiremath. With cinematography by Vishwajith Rao and music by Pradeep BV, the film brings together humour, mystery, emotion, and romance.

Sujay's fascination with time began with a deceptively simple question: What if there is a village with no clock—and only one bus that dictates time? What started as a fictional premise later found an uncanny echo in reality. "After the shoot, I heard about a place in Jharkhand where people can't strictly follow time, as it always fluctuates. That made me feel this film was destined; it was time's decision as much as mine."

Choosing a retro setting was equally deliberate. "Today, we claim to be punctual, but we don't really follow time. This contradiction is something everyone relates to. That's why I chose fiction—it fascinates you, and yet feels familiar."

Calling *Elra Kaaleliyatte Kaala* a 'rooted' story, Sujay is firm about its originality. "When I claim that this film is original, I mean it. It's experimental in budget and approach, but the idea has the potential for a much larger canvas."

The director, who made his debut with *Gubbi Mele Brahmastra* starring Raj B Shetty, describes himself as someone constantly shaped by time. As he mentions that his classmates were Rishab Shetty, and Pramod Shetty, he reflects on the unpredictable nature of journeys. "Whatever time has given me, I value it. You have to believe that one day, you will do something meaningful. Until then, keep working because you never know when time will turn in your favour."

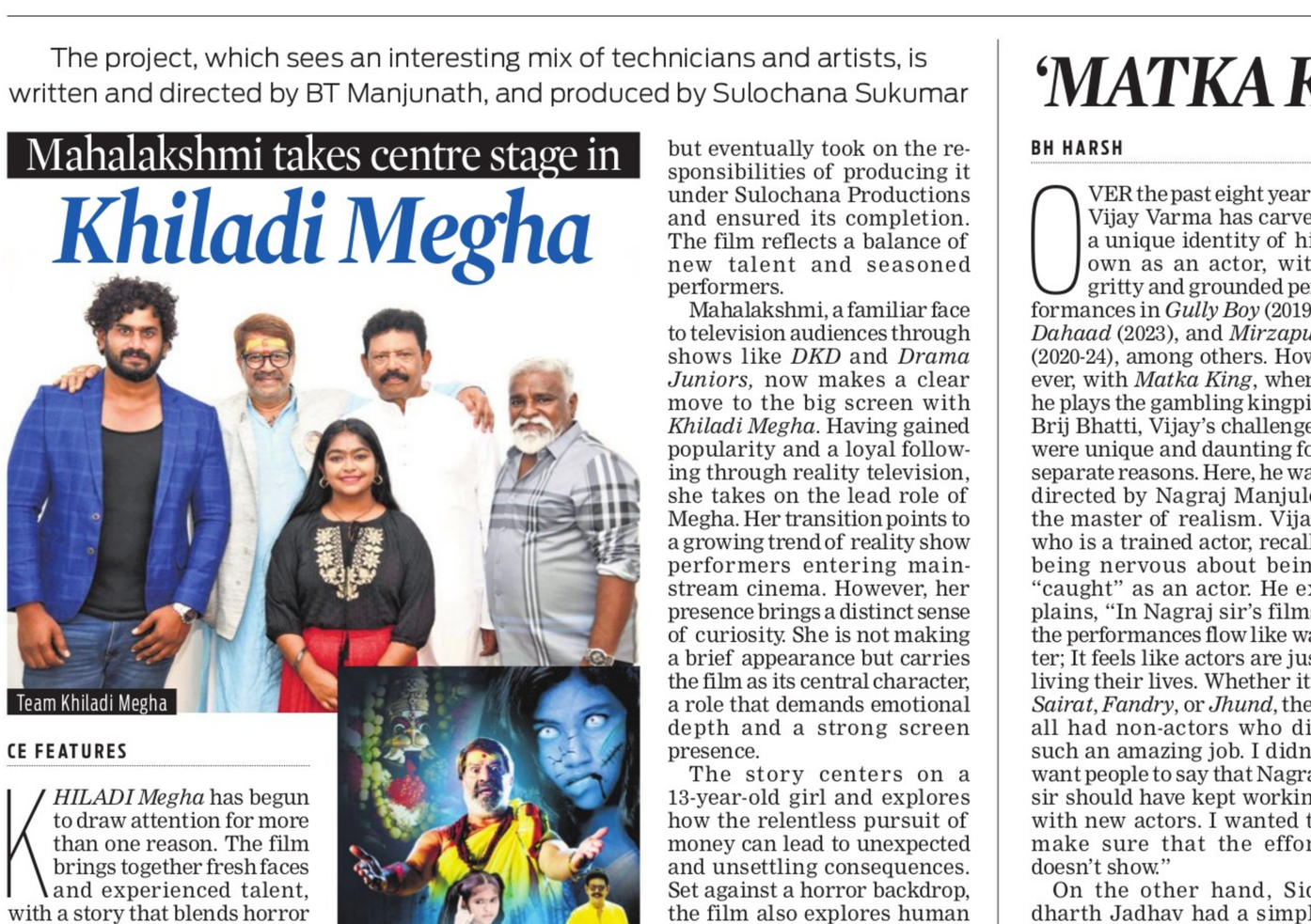
The film explores time as more than just a ticking entity. "When time is bad, we call it a villain. When it's good, we call it divine. It can be a teacher, an observer, ultimately, time is faith, and it just comes to us in different ways."

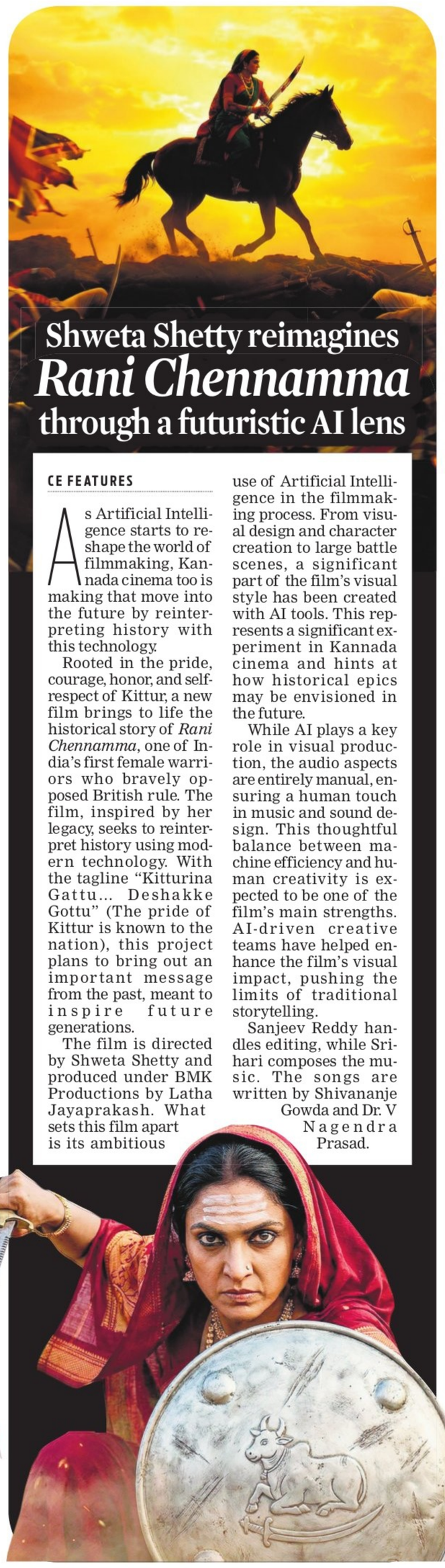
Sujay is particularly excited about casting Chandan Shetty in the lead. "I wrote this story keeping Chandan in mind. The world knows him as a rapper, but I knew he was a good actor. He just needed the right push and training. After watching the film, people will realise I made the right choice."

Blending multiple elements and anchored by a central idea, the film also carries a subtle warning. "If the audience really relates to what we've shown, they might begin to live according to time. One mistake can cause many people to suffer."

So, is *Elra Kaaleliyatte Kaala* about accepting time or resisting it? "We have to move with time. If you try to control it, it will play with you. All we can do is respect it and go with the flow."

Sujay Shastry


Archana Kottige and Chandan Shetty



Shweta Shetty reimagines *Rani Chennamma* through a futuristic AI lens

CE FEATURES

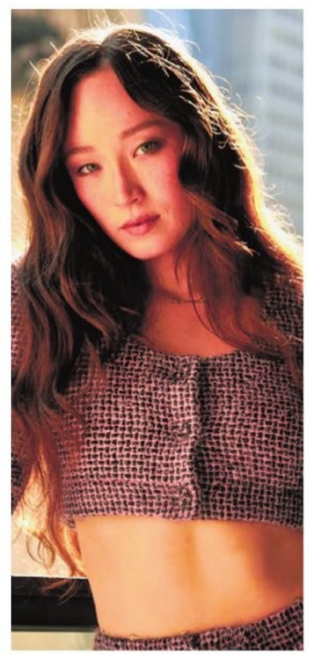
As Artificial Intelligence starts to reshape the world of filmmaking, Kannada cinema too is making that move into the future by reinterpreting history with this technology.

Rooted in the pride, courage, honor, and self-respect of Kittur, a new film brings to life the historical story of *Rani Chennamma*, one of India's first female warriors who bravely opposed British rule. The film, inspired by her legacy, seeks to reinterpret history using modern technology. With the tagline "Kitturina Gattu... Deshakke Gottu" (The pride of Kittur is known to the nation), this project plans to bring out an important message from the past, meant to inspire future generations.

The film is directed by Shweta Shetty and produced under BMK Productions by Latha Jayaprakash. What sets this film apart is its ambitious use of Artificial Intelligence in the filmmaking process. From visual design and character creation to large battle scenes, a significant part of the film's visual style has been created with AI tools. This represents a significant experiment in Kannada cinema and hints at how historical epics may be envisioned in the future.

While AI plays a key role in visual production, the audio aspects are entirely manual, ensuring a human touch in music and sound design. This thoughtful balance between machine efficiency and human creativity is expected to be one of the film's main strengths. AI-driven creative teams have helped enhance the film's visual impact, pushing the limits of traditional storytelling.

Sanjeev Reddy handles editing, while Srihari composes the music. The songs are written by Shivananje Gowda and Dr. V Nagendra Prasad.



Elden Ring film casts key roles

CE FEATURES

THE cast for Alex Garland's *Elden Ring*'s film adaptation, has expanded its cast, with Cailee Spaeny, Nick Offerman, Havana Rose Liu, among others, joining. The film adaptation of the fantasy adventure video game will release on March 3, 2028. The film is headlined by Kit Connor and Ben Whishaw. The cast of the film also includes Tom Burke, Sonoya Mizuno, Jonathan Pryce, Ruby Cruz, John Hodgkinson, Jefferson Hall, Emma Laird, and Peter Serafinowicz.

While Garland's latest directorial venture was *Warfare* (2025). He also wrote and produced the film's sequel, *28 Years Later: The Bone Temple*.

The project, which sees an interesting mix of technicians and artists, is written and directed by BT Manjunath, and produced by Sulochana Sukumar

Mahalakshmi takes centre stage in *Khiladi Megha*

Team Khiladi Megha

A still from the film

CE FEATURES

KHILADI Megha has begun to draw attention for more than one reason. The film brings together fresh faces and experienced talent, with a story that blends horror with a life lesson.

The film is written and directed by BT Manjunath, who spent years as a dubbing artist before making his directorial debut with *Khiladi Megha*. It is produced by Sulochana Sukumar, who previously worked as a dancer in the Kannada film industry and also served in the police department. He initially joined the project as an actor but eventually took on the responsibilities of producing it under Sulochana Productions and ensured its completion. The film reflects a balance of new talent and seasoned performers.

Mahalakshmi, a familiar face to television audiences through shows like *DKD* and *Drama Juniors*, now makes a clear move to the big screen with *Khiladi Megha*. Having gained popularity and a loyal following through reality television, she takes on the lead role of Megha. Her transition points to a growing trend of reality show performers entering mainstream cinema. However, her presence brings a distinct sense of curiosity. She is not making a brief appearance but carries the film as its central character, a role that demands emotional depth and a strong screen presence.

The story centers on a 13-year-old girl and explores how the relentless pursuit of money can lead to unexpected and unsettling consequences. Set against a horror backdrop, the film also explores human choices and their consequences. Veteran actor Shankar Ashwath appears as a devout spiritual figure, a role he describes as one he has personally connected with. The music for *Khiladi Megha* is composed by KM Indra.

'MATKA KING IS ABOUT HOPE'

BH HARSH

OVER the past eight years, Vijay Varma has carved a unique identity of his own as an actor, with gritty and grounded performances in *Gully Boy* (2019), *Dahaad* (2023), and *Mirzapur* (2020-24), among others. However, with *Matka King*, where he plays the gambling kingpin Brij Bhatti, Vijay's challenges were unique and daunting for separate reasons. Here, he was directed by Nagraj Manjule, the master of realism. Vijay, who is a trained actor, recalls being nervous about being "caught" as an actor. He explains, "In Nagraj sir's films, the performances flow like water; It feels like actors are just living their lives. Whether it's *Sairat*, *Fandry*, or *Jhund*, they all had non-actors who did such an amazing job. I didn't want people to say that Nagraj sir should have kept working with new actors. I wanted to make sure that the effort doesn't show."

On the other hand, Siddharth Jadhav had a simple brief: this is not a funny character. The actor, best known for his roles in Rohit Shetty comedies, plays Dagdu, the hero's loyal friend who eventually charts his own path after feeling sidelined. Reflecting on his character, Siddharth says, "Dagdu takes his life very seriously, living in the hope that he will be successful one day, even though nobody has given him the opportunity." At one point in *Matka King*, Dagdu thanks Brij for trusting him with a monumental task. Siddharth recalls how he felt a similar sense of gratitude towards his director, adding, "I thank Nagraj sir for trusting me with this role. It's only when a director has faith in you that you can do your job well. *Matka King* is relatable because everyone carries that hope within themselves."

Vijay Varma

Siddharth Jadhav

For writer and co-creator Abhay Koranne, this is his second show set against a period backdrop, after *Rocket Boys* (2022). While there have been several films and shows about an older Bombay, Abhay, with *Matka King*, captures something that we don't often see— its evolving real-estate landscape. He notes, "When our textile mills began shutting down, and the builders started taking over that land, it led to the transformation of a working-class city into a more capitalistic one. We've not seen that before, except for *Bombay Velvet* (2015). Here, we made a conscious effort to be honest in terms of these socio-political events, and how those events trickle down to our characters."

Abhay Koranne

While *Matka King* stands out for its protagonist Brij Bhatti's rigid morality, where he stays unflinching in his honesty even as he creates a massive underground gambling syndicate, the show also risks glorifying Brij in his choices. Abhay recalls his early conversations with Nagraj to explain their treatment of the character and the narrative. He reflects, "It's very important to see where the crimes come from, what is the system and environment that he is entering. When they make a decision, it's because of the situations they have been in. It's important to examine that without judging the character."

For Vijay, this is yet another grey-shaded role after works like *Dahaad* (2023), *Darlings* (2022), and *Kaalkoot* (2023). I ask him whether he feels more conscious now about choosing his roles, given the growing discourse about glorification of anti-heroes.